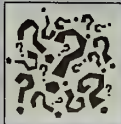


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Students, staff and faculty "walk the talk" towards campus beautification

By Oliva Mata

Every day students walk in a quickened pace across the bridge. Some may glance out at the scenery while others check their hair in the reflection.

Imagine for a moment rushing across the bridge gazing out into a treeless, lifeless area.

In their hurried lives students may overlook the assets that our campus possesses. They have grown accustomed to these assets and may take them for granted. Many students are unaware of the diversity of life our campus contains.

Andrew Neill, who is an ecological conservation instructor, has been working with the project since 1993.

The variety of species are impressive with 22 mammal species, 52 lichen species, at least nine fish species and over 250 plant species, some of which are rare to the Chicagoland area. The



JJC's campus contains 22 mammal species, 52 lichen species, at least nine fish species and over 250 plant species.

preservation of these species, and in larger part, our campus, is accredited to the staff, faculty, and student volunteers who donate their time to The Ecological Restoration Project, which dates

back to 1973. Since February of 1993, a documented 404 volunteers have generously contributed 1,272.5 hours to the conservation and beautification of the campus' natural areas.

Photo by Kaye Butz

The focus of the Ecological Restoration Project is to "re-establish native plant communities on the college's designated natural areas until they become self-sustaining high-quality natural communities."

Possibly more important than what the project physically accomplishes is what it attempts to instill in its volunteers. Neill says that the volunteers take with them "a sense of urgency and concern for our vanishing resources."

The Ecological Restoration Project is a hands-on way of putting into action their concern for the maintenance of our natural resources. Or, as Neill effectively put it, an opportunity to "Walk The Talk."

If you feel motivated to "Walk The Talk" and would like to dedicate your services to the cause, contact The Natural Science and Physical Education Department for further details at (815) 280-2632 or Neill directly at anell@jjc.cc.il.us.

Project Achieve: The best kept secret on campus

By David Ashby

Among the many clubs, organizations, and programs that exist on the Joliet Junior College campus, there is one that seems to be hidden in the shadows. This program is called Project Achieve, a federal grant-funded support service established in 1983.

It specializes in tutoring and counseling students to increase the graduation rate and to provide students with a comfortable atmosphere to improve their studies.

Project Achieve's Academic Support Specialist Kate Lopez

states that the program is "the best kept secret on campus." Project Achieve is a support service that specializes in helping first-generation college students, students from low-income families, and students with documented disabilities, though it is open to any interested students.

Among the many services that the program offers is professional tutoring to assist students enrolled in English, Math and Computer Science classes. The program even helps students who have anxieties about taking tests and exams.

One of the many special ser-

vices that Project Achieve offers students is assistance in their future endeavors. Career exploration and transferring to four-year institutions are specialties in the program. The tutors and advisors work closely with their students to ensure that they meet their educational and personal goals. Throughout the year, Project Achieve even takes its students on field trips to various four-year colleges around Illinois.

"There are many reasons why students join our program," Lopez said. "Some come for the tutoring, some come for the field trips,

and others come because the atmosphere is very open, convenient, and accepting."

With an average of 250-350 students, Project Achieve is a support program that offers students assistance with their educational and personal goals. Many students are unaware of the opportunities that this program offers, anybody who is interested is encouraged to join.

For more information about Project Achieve, visit its offices in H-1001 (on the south end of the bridge) and J-2014 on Main Campus.

Centennial Drive provides new access to parking lots

By Jason Baloun

You noticed the ground being ripped apart, the heavy machinery moving around, and the loud sounds coming from the once barren land. When you returned from winter break you finally understood-- a new street was being born.

Centennial Drive is open, and access from Olympic Boulevard to parking lots three and four has never been easier. According to Campus Police Chief Steven Bennett, the planning for Centennial Drive dates back three or four years.

The major catalyst for construction, Bennett said, seems to be the new dorms, which are being built adjacent to the road. The addition of the dorms will add traffic entering and exiting campus at that location.

A stoplight is being set up on

Olympic Boulevard, but until that is functioning, it is a somewhat risky intersection.

Students must also be aware that during the morning rush, right turns from Centennial Drive onto the main road will be restricted. Bennett said that his officers have been physically monitoring the volume of traffic on Centennial Drive to decide whether or not a three-way stop will be necessary. He expects that once the stop light on Olympic Boulevard is operating, the volume of traffic will increase.

The addition of Centennial Drive is a good sign for those involved with Joliet Junior College. It suggests that the campus is expanding in anticipation of a growing student body. There will be a grand opening ceremony on Feb. 20 at 3 p.m.



Centennial Drive is now open to students, helping to access parking lots three and four.

Photo by Kaye Butz

Campus security and police:

Who are these people and what do they do?

Jason Baloun

You see them every day, walking around campus in gray slacks and white shirts, eyes shifting from left to right, never keeping eye contact with any one student for too long. If you're a smoker, you've felt their wrath. They are JJC security, keeping students safe and sedated.

With the presence of the campus police department, some students may wonder what responsibilities the security officers actually have. I decided to find out.

I assumed that there would be a security office somewhere on campus, but wasn't sure where it was. To solve this minor set back I decided to go to the campus police and ask them. I desperately needed answers and hoped that I could find some there.

I was told that the answers I sought could be found by speaking with Chief Bennett. He is in charge of both the campus police and the campus security. Although they belong to the same department, they have very different responsibilities.

"Security officers are committed to assisting sworn staff, but have no arrest power," Bennett said. Their primary functions are to observe and report, lock and unlock doors on campus, locate safety hazards, and periodically check fire alarms and extinguishers.

I've heard rumors that people have received tickets for smoking in unauthorized areas. Apparently these rumors are both true and false. Bennett said that currently tickets issued to students for smoking too close to entrance ways are not monetary, but are code of conduct referrals. The seriousness of these offenses is then up to the dean or vice-president to decide.

My advice to you is if you smoke, walk the extra 10 feet to avoid the hassle.

Another issue students need to be aware of is that although campus security officers don't have arrest power, the campus police do. Joliet Junior College is in its own law enforcement jurisdiction. These police officers are the real deal. If you get pulled over for a minor traffic violation and a warrant from another police department pops up, you are in trouble and you will be detained.

When you're on campus, cut these guys some slack. They're doing their job and they'll be there for you when you need them. They've got enough to deal with, without having to put up with your ignorance.

On the last day of winter break I was given an interesting opportunity to do good. I was driving down Rt. 47 South, coming home from my girlfriend's house in Crystal Lake, when I noticed a car pulled over on the side of the road. My first thought was that it was a cop, so I slowed down. Upon closer examination, I realized that it was not a police car, but a broken down beater. I drove a little farther and saw a woman who I assumed to be the driver walking down the road with a big yellow gas can. Sucks to be her, I said in my head and kept driving.

I had just seen two movies, "Lord of the Rings," and "Kate and Leopold," which dealt with some pretty noble people. I attribute the sharp U-turn I made to those movies.

I found the women down the road (I think her name started with an M) but I'm not really big on names. She was probably in her fifties, and she was cold and upset. I asked her if she wanted a ride, and told her that the gas station was only about two miles down the road. M seemed hesitant at first. I guess I'm not the friendliest looking guy, but she

eventually decided that her options were running out.

I drove her there and back, filled up her gas tank, and she left. We had an interesting conversation on the way, she mumbled, stuttered, and jumped all over lots of topics, but I guess she was just nervous to talk straight (although when she started talking about demons it kind of freaked me out for a second).

The real point of the story is that lots of people passed that woman and didn't stop; they were too busy, too wrapped up in themselves. Little acts of random kindness can do wonders for one's

karma. Even us disillusioned youth can do some good in our small world, and we need to start now because we really are the future.

I didn't accept any money from the woman, even though I'm standing knee-deep in a bathtub of debt. Some things should be done just to do them. I don't remember her name, and I doubt she remembers mine, but I'll always remember the feeling I got from helping someone I don't know just for the sake of good.

Anonymous

Our View Out with the old, in with the new

"Out with the old, in with the new" is a common saying that most of us have heard before. The Blazer staff wants to stress this saying since another year has come and gone. Whatever happened last year, good or bad, is done and over with, which makes 2002 the perfect year to start fresh and set your goals high.

Strive to do something that you have never done before. It could be as simple as joining a club at Joliet Junior College. Like to write? How about submitting a story to the Blazer or the Wordzter.

Or are you into more "Challenges of the mind"? Join the gamers club on campus. For information on all clubs, visit JJC's web site for a listing of all the clubs and their meeting times each month.

Volunteering can also be a perfect way to make you feel good while helping others. You could donate blood. You could volunteer at the hospital, animal shelter, or women's shelter, or get involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters

program. If interested in Big Brothers Big Sisters you can call them at 815-725-4324 or visit the web site at www.bbbswillgrundy.org.

A common response to added activities in your life may be that there are not enough hours in a day. Learn to manage your time better. For example, instead of watching two hours of television every day, cut television watching in half and work out for an hour every day instead. Help your health by joining the fitness center. More information can also be found at JJC's website.

Affraid you won't stick to your new goals? A good way to keep these goals after you have set them is to keep a journal of your daily activities and keep track of your progress.

Did you know that actually attending your classes every session is also a great way to meet people? Make a simple goal of meeting five new people this month. Whatever your goals may be, the Blazer hopes you reach them this year.

Letter Policy

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters.

Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at H-1015B.

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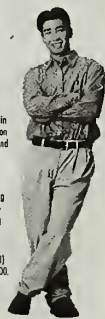
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TTY phones installed on all campuses for hearing impaired students and guests

by Carrie Roderick

In order for JJC to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the school administration initiated the installation of TTY phones for the hearing impaired. You may have walked right by and not even noticed the small metal boxes attached to some of the payphones. The boxes contain a keyboard which is activated when the caller places a TTY call.

"The beauty of this system is you just add a piece of equipment and the phone is usable by students, bearing impaired students, and hearing impaired guests," said

Dr. Alan G. Hardersen, Vice President for Student Services

To use the Public TTY is very simple. It has directions written on the box. First, place the handset on the shelf or holder. Then choose how you will pay for the call—cash or credit. Dial the number. Watch the signal light on the TTY drawer to see if the other phone is ringing or busy. Then to use the TTY Voice Announcer press * (pound) three times.

When the other person types, the TTY drawer will open. Type your conversation. Hang up the handset and the TTY drawer will close by itself.

"With the increased number of students and guests who are hearing impaired, the TTY phones make a lot of sense," Hardersen added.

There are signs indicating where the TTY phones are located. There are TTYs located in the following places: J building ground floor behind stair case, D mall entrance by elevator, T building entrance near conference center, North Campus, and City Center.

The North Campus phone is installed but not operational yet. The City Center is partially installed. Both of these should be in operation soon.

Hardersen said we should all be aware of these in case the situation does come up where a hearing impaired person needs to make a call. This is just one of the many efforts to improve customer service.

Next semester, JJC will begin renovations for better wheelchair access to the washrooms, especially in the J building, where it is the most difficult to maneuver wheelchairs.

The plan is to install a separate, unisex handicapped-accessible facility, which will include a private sink and lockable door.



Question of the Issue:

What was the most interesting thing that happened to you over break?



Andrea Mason

"I was at an abandoned house, and I locked my keys in the trunk of my car."



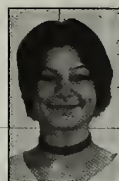
Robin Case

"I wish I could remember."



Eric Starkey

"I got hit on by a 60-year-old lady at a karaoke bar."



Olivia L.

"I went to the art museum in Chicago and I visited my train three times. So I had to get a cheap hotel and spend all of my money."



Amber Castanier

"I was putting gas in my car and the hose was tangled up. I needed to get around it, so I decided to jump over it. I got one leg safely across but when I went to throw my other leg over, and it got stuck on the roof of my car."



Beth Clark

"I was at work and this guy asked me out so I asked him what he wanted out of the relationship with me. He said, 'Well I want a girlfriend, but I don't want to get married.'"



Erin Molburg

"Going sledding for the first time in 19 years."



Sarah Van Duyn

"I went to Orlando, Fla., and I saw Eddie Money and Men At Work in concert."

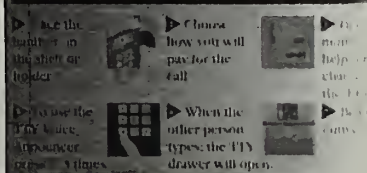


Loren Kennedy

"I experienced life in Chicago because I stayed with my sister in Lincoln Park for two weeks."

Photos and copy by Jessica Harvey

How to use the Public TTY



This box underneath designated pay phones has a keyboard allowing hearing impaired students and guests to call out.

Photos by Kaye Butz

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AT BRIDGE AND STUFFING CASH INTO YOUR BIRTHDAY CARD?

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Career service center helps students plan for future

by Lauren Madison

Do you need a job? When it comes to deciding on a major of study, finding an internship, or finding a full or part-time job, the Career Services Center can help.

"If [students] are looking for career-related jobs or jobs in general, there are postings on the Internet through CEN," said Mary Jo Wolfersberger, a counselor in the Career Services Center.

CEN stands for the Collegiate Employment Network, and is an internet-based job listing system. It was created in June of 1997 by the Career Services Center in partnership with the Herald News. The system is password protected so in order to check out the listings, you need to contact Mary Brenzewski at ext. 2756, or email her at mbrenze@cc.cic.il.us with your name, email address, phone number and the password you would like.

The Career Services Center has many computer programs to aid those trying to decide on a

major. These programs quiz students on their interests and skills, and will give them a brief descrip-

Computers aside, the Career Services Center also has many other printed resources. If students have a question

about what kind of money they would make in a particular field, and what types of duties they would be responsible for or what qualifications they would need, the materials are there for student use at no cost.

Students seeking counselor assistance in finding a job should bring in an overview of previous employers, classes they've had that might aid in a particular job, and anything else that may be useful. Then the counselors will be able to find jobs that the student is qualified for, and help them prepare a resume.

Career counselors are available Tuesday and Wednesday evenings until 8 PM for any questions in d-1013, in the student center. If you have any further questions you can contact Mary Brenzewski, or Mary Jo Wolfersberger, at 815-280-2756.

White, and Blue." The conference is designed and implemented entirely by high school students. Each high school participating assembles a team of 5 to 10 students to plan the conference. The students decided on the theme and will be designing all the booth and room presentations. The students also hired the keynote speakers, decided on the

Fine Arts Department: The Fine Arts Department along with The Office of Student Services and Activities and The Women's College will present two performances of the Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler on Friday Feb. 15 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the JJC Fine Arts Theatre located in the 'K' building on the main campus. The Vagina Monologues is open to the public; however, there is adult material, and it is not recommended for young children. Admission is \$5 for the general public; \$4 for senior citizens, non-JJC students, JJC faculty and staff; \$2 for JJC students. Proceeds from this production will benefit The Sexual Assault Service Center at Guardian Angel Home. For further information or to reserve tickets, call 280-2200.

Multicultural Transfer Center: There will be a Navigating College: Minority Student & Parent Orientation Question & Answer Session on Wednesday, Feb. 6 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in room J-0006. This event provides information about the opportunities available to minority students at JJC. For further information contact Angie Kaysen Lutzbetak at 280-2449.

The Multicultural Transfer Center will also be holding two

Transfer Center Lunch and Learns with Illinois State University on Thursday Jan. 31 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in room J-0006 and the University of Illinois Chicago on Tuesday Feb. 19 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in room J-0006. This event is open to any JJC student who is considering transferring to a senior college. The universities will discuss topics such as financial aid and scholarships, and answer questions that students may have. Lunch will be provided. For further information contact Angie Kaysen Lutzbetak at 280-2449.

Campus Police: The Rape Aggressions Defense Systems will be holding two 12-hour courses in self-defense tactics to prevent sexual assault this month. The classes are open to women ages 16 and over. Classes are offered on four consecutive Fridays for three hours each class. Classes are on Feb. 1, 8, and 15 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in KK 102. Classes will also be offered on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for four hours each class. Classes are on Feb. 19, 20, and 21 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in room C2018. There is a one-time fee of \$25 per person. Classes are limited to 10 people per class. For further information or to make reservations for a class call Joe Sikora at 280-2234.

Tech Prep Program: In 2002 we represent the future of the red, white, blue

by Bill Hepburn

This year the Tech Prep Program is sponsoring its seventh annual Tech Prep Student Conference. The conference will be held on Feb. 21 at the Jefferson Square Mall in Joliet. It will run from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Each department that wants to participate is asked to set up a table, display or booth for the students to visit. This year the Tech Prep Program is expecting over 1,200 students from the surrounding area to attend. The conference's theme this year is "In 2002 We are the Future of the Red,

White, and Blue."

The conference is designed and implemented entirely by high school students. Each high school participating assembles a team of 5 to 10 students to plan the conference. The students decided on the theme and will be designing all the booth and room presentations. The students also hired the keynote speakers, decided on the

meal that will be provided, and they will work the registration table as well.

The Tech Prep Program believes this is an excellent way for the students to begin their professional development to learn different problem solving techniques, critical thinking, working within a budget, the importance of teamwork, the development of leader-

ship, communication skills, and a variety of other skills as well.

The Tech Prep Program would like anyone interested in showcasing the department's programs or services at this conference to fax Dan Kreidler at 815-280-1510. If anyone has questions about reserving space at the conference contact Kreidler directly at 280-1363.

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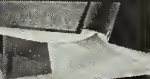
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Dyson rivets audience at MLK Convocation

by Lisa Widlowski

Martin Luther King Convocation was Friday Jan. 11th. Student Services and the African American Task Force organized the Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation here in the JJC cafeteria.

This annual event's objective for 2002 was to connect the hip hop generation with King's ideas. This year's speaker was Dr. Michael Dyson, professor of religious studies at DePaul University and author of several books.

Two of his books, *I May Not Get There With You: The True Martin Luther King and Holler If You Hear Me: The Search for Tupac Shakur*, were both being sold at the convo-

cation where Dr. Dyson was also having a book signing.

According to Anissa Jones, the main coordinator of the event, Dyson spoke about bridging the gap between the struggles in the 1960s the struggles many of us face today.

Dyson related Tupac to Malcolm X and also said that current rappers' messages can, at times, be compared to King's message. The discrimination some rappers today address is the same discrimination King faced in his time.

"(Dyson's) words were riveting and he connected so well with the students," said Jones. She also said students were surprised and impressed that this intellectual man knew

the words to their favorite rap songs. He went to the students level.

An estimated 300-400 people were in attendance at the MLK convocation. After all the seats were filled, even the hall looking down on the cafeteria was crowded with people.

The majority of the people there were students. Jones believes everyone came away with a lot; she has gotten nothing but positive feedback.

Bridging the gap between the Civil Rights Movement and the struggles we see today is important to many students. During the question and answer session, students asked Dyson what they could do to help. Dyson simply said if

you have something to say, step up to the plate. Do not just talk the talk, you need to walk the walk.

When Jones was asked how to celebrate King's birthday, she said, "Something as simple as community service would be great." Use the time off to make a positive effect on society, just like King did. Even though the holiday has passed, we should remember this man who changed the face of America every day, she added.

If you are interested in seeing the video recording of this nationally known speaker, you can check it out at the Learning Resource Center, located on the third floor of J-building.

late Capitol
Alabama



Dr. Michael Dyson, professor of religious studies at DePaul University, was the guest speaker at the MLK Convocation held Jan. 11.

Photo courtesy of Anissa Jones

Competitor looking for ideas

Recent grad to compete in 'BattleBots'

By Jessica Harvey

Recent Joliet Junior College graduate, Joseph Beno, has always been interested in machines, so it comes as no surprise that he brought one of his own creations when he visited the school last semester.

"I have always been fascinated with machines and how they work. I finally attained the chance to enrich this interest with the aid of the fine people in the EEAS department at JJC," says Beno.

On Nov. 21, Beno displayed a robot that he built to be on the popular television show, "BattleBots." He came to the school so he could get ideas for weaponry from current students attending JJC.

Students gave him ideas, such as having a high-speed, sloped conveyor at the forward front of the machine. This would cause the BattleBot opponent to be flung up and flip over. Another idea that he received from students was to

have an arm that is capable of flipping the BattleBot onto its right side in case it gets flipped over by the opponent.

"I have already made and tested a prototype of a spike driver," says Beno, when referring to a double-acting cylinder that is capable of driving a seven-inch spike at a speed of Mach III through 1/8 of an inch of stainless steel with the aid of a 2500 psi

scuba tank.

The machine weighs 130 pounds, which leaves 80 pounds for weapons and armaments. Beno hopes to have the robot completed by summer, so it can compete in the fall. Since the BattleBot is not yet finished, Beno wants input from anyone who has ideas to improve his machine. He can be contacted at his email address, joebeno2@yahoo.com.



Robot builder, Joseph Beno, a recent JJC graduate, will compete on the popular television show, "BattleBots" in the fall of 2002.

Photo by Jessica Harvey

You can get on the fast track at the JJC North Campus

by Eric Carlson

Starting this semester, Joliet Junior College students will have the opportunity to complete a degree in a relatively short period of time. The north campus will be offering a fast-track series for any student who is majoring in business.

Each course meets for five weekends, Fridays and Saturdays, during which students can complete 30 credit hours and receive a business management certificate of achievement. Students can complete the certificate in only 12-18 months and can then transfer it into an associate's degree.

Dr. Michael Townsend, associate dean of the north campus and community services, said the north campus continues to grow at a steady pace each semester.

"We hope to draw more students to the north campus when the fast-track program starts in the spring," Townsend said.

The three courses offered in the fast-track program are introduction to business, principles of business communications and marketing.

The first course, introduction to business, started Jan. 11 and will run until Feb. 9.

The class meets Fridays 6-9:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. The objective of the course is to survey the principles from the perspective of the business manager and the employee.

The second course, market-

ing, will start Feb. 22 and run until March 23. The class will meet at the same time on Fridays and Saturdays.

The main objective of this course is to define and analyze business functions that direct the flow of goods and services from producers to consumers.

The third course, principles of business communications, will start April 5 and run until May 4. The class will meet at the same time on Fridays and Saturdays. The main objective of this course is to discuss communication practices in business expression, identifying and responding to psychological tone, verbal and nonverbal communication and practice in writing various types of business correspondence.

"Students may also receive a certificate for completing the microcomputer for business option," Townsend said.

The microcomputer for business option certificate of completion is another fast-track program introduced to the north campus with the same format as the business management and supervision.

For more information about the fast-track program at the north campus or for registration call (815) 886-3000, or visit the JJC home page and click on the north campus icon.



An accelerated associate's degree is now being offered at the JJC North Campus. The course can be finished in 12 to 18 months.

Photo courtesy of North Campus

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Dear Mandy

Readers ask Mandy questions pertaining to dating, style, and confidentiality.

Dear Mandy,

I'm a popular guy (I'm not bragging, I just am). There's this girl I met in high school, and I've liked her ever since. We now both attend JJC. She is like no one else that I've met before. But she's not really popular. That doesn't bother me, but it does bother my friends. For a long time I never even thought of talking to her, because I was afraid what my friends would think. Well, now I don't care what they think; I want to get with this girl, but I don't know where to start!

Lookin' 4 an answer

Dear Lookin' 4 an answer,

I assume that you'll be out of high school for at least a year (I say this because that's usually when people stop letting their friends make decisions for them.) Have you kept in touch with/get? Do you know her status (single, taken)? If not, you better. If she's single, and looking, then I suggest you approach slowly. Talking to her and making "moves" right away might make her suspicious, or scare her away. Start things off friendly, make conversation when you see her and then let the rest come naturally.

Dear Mandy,

I'm a new resident of Joliet, and an incoming freshman at JJC, but I'm 28! So, my clothes, to say the least, are a bit outdated. Oh,

and I'm on a tight budget! So...I'm curious, do you know of any places that sell "current" styles of clothes for decent prices? The mall is a little to expensive for my taste!

Outdated

Dear Outdated,

A tight budget? I completely understand where you are coming from! Most college students are on budgets! I have found several stores that have good quality, name brands that all the "younger" students are wearing. And many of these stores are conveniently located nearby! These stores include KOHLS, Wal-Mart, Target and Plato's Closet. All can easily be searched for online.

Dear Mandy,

I would like to ask you questions, and get advice, but I'm worried about people finding out who I am. Is there any way you could explain the rules of your column to me?

Just a guy

Dear Just a guy,

There aren't really any rules to this, but there are guidelines. Please don't use your real name. Keep profanity to minimum (if you must use it). Just use your best judgment when choosing words in which to express your questions.

Now, about people not knowing who you are...I keep EVERYTHING CONFIDENTIAL! When you email me at Dear Mandy@hotmail.com, I simply copy and save your message then delete the email address IMMEDIATELY. You will not receive any mail from me, unless you specifically say that you would like a response. If the email thing isn't for you, simply slide the sealed envelope under the Blazer door and no one else's eyes will see them but me. Also, if it's best if you use an alias. For example, Lookin' 4 an answer.

So many CD's, so little time

CD Ratings by Jason Baloun

*** Skip class and go buy it
*** Buy it at a later date
** Find someone who has it and copy it
* Find someone who has it and laugh

No Doubt

No Doubt Rock Steady
**

It's always nice when artists decided to try different styles, but not when they try to combine them all on to one CD. It's fun, upbeat music, but it can get annoying at times. *Rock Steady* is definitely one of those CDs you should listen to a few times prior to purchasing it.

The focus of *Rock Steady* seems to be experimenting with all different kinds of keyboard noises: some work, some don't. Gwen Stefani's voice is as sexy as ever, but it's lacking sincerity.

In the past it seemed that Gwen was singing about herself or her experiences, now it seems like maybe she just wants to tell Me.

The first single, *Don't Let Me Down* is a bouncy little tune which might be about a failing relationship or a second chance relationship, but it doesn't really matter what it's about because you can't stop yourself from singing along.

Most of these songs have pretty repetitive lyrics, so you'll catch on quickly. It's good party music and it will get people moving (possibly out the front door).

This CD has its ups and downs, but it does make good background music.

Hopefully now that Gwen is marrying that guy from Bush she'll go back to making more rockish music. I think it's kind of ironic that this CD is entitled *Rock Steady* and yet it has less noticeable guitar playing than any of the other No Doubt CDs. A better title would have been *Dance Steady*. Just wait for this one to show up in the bargain bin before you decide to buy it.



Sevendust

Animosity

Two words: Buy it. *Animosity*, Sevendust's third album, is a roller coaster ride of emotions. Lajon Witherspoon brings something to music that has been lacking lately—talent. His vocals can be defined as eclectic, blending heavy with soft and loud with melodic. You won't find one rap-rock song on this disc, and that's a good thing.

The first single, *Praise*, is a catchy tune that demonstrates the bands talent. Clint Lowery plays guitar and screams backing vocals. His style is unique and makes the music more interesting. T.O.A.B, shows that Sevendust is still a metal band and can bash heads with the rest of them.

Angel's Son is a beautiful song about losing someone you love. It's acoustic and Lajon surprises us with his range of vocals.

Unlike most Sevendust songs, you could actually fall asleep to it instead of waking up your neighbors.

Bands like Sevendust are keeping metal alive, making some slight adjustments, and giving the fans what they want. If you like heavy music this is a good CD. If you like lighter music with an edge, this is a good CD. And if you like Christian rock...go buy Creed's CD.



Nine Inch Nails

All That Could Have Been

When you purchase a CD and listen to it for the first time, you always have some sort of expectations, but most of the time the actual product isn't quite what you thought it could be. This CD, as the title suggests, is all that it could be.

Trent Reznor is known for his meticulous studio work and I think that's what makes this disc so refreshing. *All That Could Have Been* hosts 16 live tracks built on raw emotion, sweat, and a little insanity.

Every second of this disc gives you something to listen to, there are no lead-ins, no dead time. When you listen, you can almost picture yourself at the show. *All That Could Have Been* has a nice mix of older releases and songs off of NIN's 1999 release, *The Fragile*. Unless you've gotten your hands on some bootlegs or been to a NIN show, you've never heard Trent Reznor sound this good.

Songs like *Terrible Lie March of the Pigs*, *Wish, Closer*, and *Star******, Inc., will get you moving down the highway well above the posted speed-limit. Others like *The Frail*, *The Day the World Went Away* and *Hurt* will have you turning the lights on in your room and crying for your mother.

So many bands release live CDs that sound just like their studio albums, but that's where NIN's differs. Out of the studio, Reznor is allowed to breathe, but at the same time forced to throw all that he's got into every inch of the music. Reznor is one of the few musical geniuses left, his mind drove him towards a downward spiral, but his insanity pushed him back towards his visions.

You can hear the passion and desperation in Reznor's voice and that's when you know that this guy's real deal.

All That Could Have Been is also available on DVD and VHS format which includes live concert footage and behind the scenes footage. Trent Reznor is in the studio working on something, but it will probably be awhile before we can start looking for any new studio releases or world tours from Nine Inch Nails.

The Best & Worst films of 2001

By Matt Sheehan

The year of 2001 was an interesting year in the world of film to say the least. From apes to Angeline and orcs to ogres, this year was across the board. Let's take a look at what came out on top of the group and who is (and should be) stuck at the bottom.

The Best

1. *A Beautiful Mind*-A beautiful film. Beautiful direction by Ron Howard. Beautiful performance by Russell Crowe. Beautiful Jennifer Connelly. Beautiful sorting cast, including Ed Harris. Simply beautiful.

2. *Shrek*-The biggest surprise of the year (and in quite some time). Funny, smart, and inventive. The

best comedy of the year. Get the DVD- it's the best of the year. Oh, and, yeah, Eddie Murphy makes a great ass.

3. *Shadow of the Vampire*-Okay, technically this is a 2000 release, but it wasn't released in the Chicago area until early this year. A great movie. Great fictional, intelligent humor. John Malkovich and Willem Defoe are brilliant. Another great DVD of the year.

Honorable mentions:

Star Wars: Episode II-Attack of the Clones (teaser trailer: "Breathing")

Memento

Worst of 2001

Harry Potter & Sorcerer's Stone

The Mummy Returns

The Worst

1. *Hannibal*-A complete and utter disastrous and distasteful mockery of everything that was great in *Silence of the Lambs*. An anti-Silence of the Lambs, everything that Lambs stood for is turned around to be the complete opposite in this so-called film.

2. *See Spot Run*-David Arquette sucks in this. Actually, the title should have been that Worst "kids" movie of the year. Stupid and unfunny.

3. *Planet of the Apes*-A huge disappointment for me, seeing as how this was the one film I wanted to see over the summer. Too funny to be sci-fi. Leave making *Apes* funny up to *The Simpsons*. Tim Roth as Thade was awesome though. Everybody else sucked.



We hope everyone has a good spring session.
-Blazer Staff

JJC clubs take center stage at this spring's MainStreet celebration

by Amy Pedersen

JJC clubs took part in the on Jan. 23 and 24.

MainStreet is held at the beginning of every semester and provides clubs and organizations an opportunity to show everyone what they do, as well as recruit new members.

Without the MainStreet celebration, many students on campus would not know about the variety of club and organization opportunities available to them on campus.

This semester's MainStreet attracted more than 50 booths, many of them student clubs. These clubs provide opportunities for students to meet new friends who have the same interests as they do, as well as take part in a variety of activities.

One such club which took part in the MainStreet celebration was the Parapsychology Club. Parapsychology is "a study to investigate psychological aspects of supernatural phenomena of the mind."

The Parapsychology Club covers topics that range from street smarts to the phenomena of crop circles.

In the past the club has had speakers like Colin Andrew, "the world's leading spokesperson on crop circles," says Len Hodgman, one of the advisers of the club and geology teacher at the JJC's north campus. Andrew talked about the



Students browse during the MainStreet celebration held in the concourse of buildings C-F on Jan. 23 and 24.

different arguments and views of how the crop circles occurred.

Best-seller author of, "Mutant Message," Marlow Morgan was also a guest speaker for the club. Hodgman said Morgan, who made a journey across the Australian Outback and spent 100 days with the Aborigines, became a best-selling author shortly after her

visit.

The Parapsychology club meets the third Friday of every month at 7 p.m. in room D-2001. Other clubs meet at various times throughout the month.

For more information about other clubs, go to the JJC home page and do a search for student clubs and organizations.

Photo by Kaye Buz

Vagina Monologues set for the Main Campus on Feb. 15

by Jessica Harvey

On Friday, Feb. 15, The Fine Arts Theatre, Women's College, and Office of Student Services will sponsor the *Vagina Monologues* by Eve Ensler.

The *Vagina Monologues* is based on interviews that Ensler conducted with hundreds of women. The play deals with the joy, embarrassment and fear that affect women and the way that they look at themselves.

"Hopefully this play will give people a better understanding of women and all of the different emotions that come with being a woman," said student, Jade Phillips.

"There is a misconception that this play is dirty and there is some strong language and situations that are strong, but it is only dirty if you put that connotation on it."

-Nicki Blowers

The *Vagina Monologues* tackles the serious issues of rape and violence against women. However, the play has its comical moments as well. Some of the more humorous moments come from the answers to the question of what a vagina would wear if a woman had the opportunity to dress it. It also answers some questions that go unasked.

"A lot of the issues dealt with in this play are things that everyone thinks about, but nobody really talks about. This play provides an opportunity for people to have

their questions answered if they are too afraid to ask them," said student Tricia Dupree.

"Hopefully this play will give people a better understanding of women and all of the different emotions that come with being a woman."

-Jade Phillips

A few citizens were concerned about the content of the play and the importance that it played at a state-funded community college, according to Nicki Blowers, play director. Blowers cautions that the *Vagina Monologues* is not recommended for high school students or younger children.

"There is a misconception that this play is dirty and there is some strong language and situations that are strong, but it is only dirty if you put that connotation on it," said Blowers.

The *Vagina Monologues* will be performed twice on Friday, Feb. 15 at 10 a.m. and again at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre on the main campus. Ticket prices are \$5 for the public; \$4 for senior citizens, non-JJC students, JJC faculty and staff; \$2 for JJC students.

Proceeds from this production will benefit the Sexual Assault Service Center at Guardian Angel Home, and 10 percent of the proceeds will also go to help the women in Afghanistan. For ticket reservations or more information, call 280-2200.

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DEATH NOTICE

Tragedy strikes JJC student

This is to inform the campus community that a JJC student, Kenneth Sigler of Dwight, died during a diving excursion in Santa Lucia, during the holiday break.

He was a student in the Manufacturing Production Technology program. The funeral was held on Jan. 26 at St. Patrick's Church in Dwight. The family requested that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to the charity of the donor's choice, in the name of Kenneth Sigler.

Women's basketball

Lady Wolves struggle to gain footing

by Kristin Hulva

The Lady Wolves basketball team began the new year with a 69-29 loss to a tough south suburban team.

The schedule didn't get any easier for JJC's lady hoopers. They faced Harper on Jan. 8. The Lady Hawks, who came into the match-up ranked No. 4 nationally, prevailed in the NAC contest, 90-52. Minooka native Danielle Mumm turned in a solid performance. The 6-foot freshman center rang up 12 points and picked up 7 boards. Significant contributions also came from AnnMarie Dell'Aquila, who had 9 points and 9 rebounds, and Jamece Price, who also had 9 points.

On Jan. 9, the Lady Wolves

hosted College of Dupage, who walked in ranked in the top spot nationally. The Wolves put forth a great effort, but fell short once again, 67-29. Chris Callagiris led the team with 8 points while Dell'Aquila and Carrie Pickering chalked up 5 points each. Lockport native Ashley Fox pitched in with 7 boards.

On Jan. 15 JJC's ladies traveled to Rock Valley to face the Golden Eagles. Despite Ashley Fox turning in an impressive 20-point performance, during which she was 4-7 from behind the arc, the Wolves were defeated, 72-42. Mumm fell short of a double double with 9 points and 8 rebounds. Shooting only 28 percent from the floor hurt the Lady Wolves.

A Jan. 22 game versus Triton

College provided the closest game of the new year for the ladies. Triton got the best of JJC with a final score of 56-43.

Mumm turned in another promising performance with the double double, posting 10 points and cleaning up on the glass with 14 rebounds. Dell'Aquila shared high scoring honors, also contributing 10 points. Pickering had an impressive 9 assists.

This freshman dominated roster shows definite promise for next season, and perhaps for the rest of the 2002 campaign. The loss to Triton gives the Lady Wolves a record of 1-18 and 0-4 in NAC action. The Women's team has four home dates remaining on Feb. 5, Feb. 9, Feb. 23, and Feb. 26.



JJC's Carrie Pickering, a freshman, makes her way down the court during a recent game.

Photo courtesy of Athletics Department

Wolves men take 2 tough losses

by Scott Bessler

The JJC Wolves men's basketball team posted two tough losses last week as they fell short against both Triton College and Olivet Nazarene University.

Despite outscoring the Triton Trojans 48-38 in the second half of their match-up on Tuesday, Jan. 22, the Wolves were unable to bridge the point gap and finished the game with a 94-96 loss. Freshman Gordon Morgan contributed a season high 39 points. The victory for Triton improved its record to 17-5 overall. The Trojans currently stand at 2-2 in the NAC.

Adding to the Wolves woes was another disappointing loss to Olivet Nazarene University on Saturday, Jan. 26 in Kankakee. At halftime, the Wolves trailed Olivet 45-35 and were unable to recover from this deficit. The spotlight, however, was on freshman forward

Eddie Small. Small shot 11-18 from the field with a contribution of 23 points and led all rebounders, pulling down 15 boards.

Freshman Trent Ellis finished the game against Olivet with 20 points and added 7 assists. Morgan also contributed 6 assists and 7 points.

"This was not a good week for us. Although, we did come back and made a game of it against Triton," said head coach Joe Kuhn.

The Wolves currently stand 16-6 for the season.

The Wolves traveled to Palatine this week for a conference match against Harper College.

This game was the first of two conference games the Wolves will face this week. They will travel Saturday, Feb. 2, to Glen Ellyn for a game against College of DuPage.

Softball's back in the swing

by Eric Starkey

The Joliet Junior College softball season has now begun, with anticipation of first year coach Kym McKay leading the Wolves to a victorious season.

Practice began on Tuesday Jan. 22, and the first game is scheduled for March 15. No starters have been picked yet, but the team has 13 incredible players to pick from. Coach Kym McKay is still hoping to get about 15 or 16 people to sign up for what should be an exciting season.

McKay feels that the team's biggest competition will come

from their rivals at College of DuPage. She also looks forward to competing against such a highly regarded team.

Leading the Wolves this season are Kelli Lynn returning all-conference pitcher, Kristen Capista, transfer student from Indiana, freshman Jenny Delrose from Joliet Catholic Academy, and Kelly Hackle.

If students are interested in playing softball or would like to get in touch with McKay, she can be contacted at:

KmcKay@jjc.cc.il.us.

Athletes of the issue

Eddie Small



A former standout from Romeoville High School, this 6'5" freshman averaged 13 points and 9 rebounds a game last season.

In one recent game, Small shot 11 of 18 and led all scorers with 23 points during the game against Olivet Nazarene at McHie Arena.

"This forward has been delivering what is expected from him," said coach Joe Kuhn.

The next home game for the Wolves is Saturday, Feb. 2 against DuPage at 7 p.m.

Chris Callagiris



Chris Callagiris is a 5'5" Freshman point guard for the Wolves.

She just recently graduated from Morris High School.

Callagiris is doing an exceptional job of breaking down opposing defenses.

Come see the Lady Wolves play their next home game on Tuesday Feb. 5 against Rock Valley at 5 p.m.

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the deadly craze

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2003 brings
Hollywood dirt



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Complex to house 296 Campus housing is on the way

by Katie Saleg

This fall, JJC will be the first junior college in Illinois to offer housing for students. JJC's Centennial Commons will be operated by the Housing Foundation Limited Liability Company.

The housing complexes will especially be useful for out-of-area students who attend JJC because of programs like culinary arts, agriculture, horticulture, veterinary medicine technology, athletics and more.

There will be 12 complexes that will accommodate 296 students. Students will have their own bedrooms and will share with their roommate a living room, kitchen and dining facility. Outside of the apartments there will be a swimming pool, sand volleyball courts, a clubhouse with recreation, laundry facilities and group meeting spaces.

The housing community will be located on 15 acres adjacent to the college's main campus across from the JJC physical plant facilities, south of the new Centennial Drive.

There is a replica that anyone can visit at anytime located in the T-building near the T1000-T1008 hallway.

There are three different layouts for the housing spaces—four-bedroom, two-bedroom and efficiency. The replica in T-Building is an efficiency model. This model shows how much bedroom space students will have, which is about the size of an average dorm room. The model also has a bathroom, fully equipped with a bath, sink and toilet. It also features a kitchen that contains a lot of cupboard space, two drawers and a good-sized counter. Centennial Commons seems to provide a medium between actual dorm life and apartment living.

Centennial Commons will be a student housing community. This means that while the housing is set up like apartments, giving students more space, they will still have rules to follow.

"The students will be required to follow the campus policies as well as those outlined in their leases," explains Alexandra Baker, Housing Director.

But, although there will be four RA's (resident advisors) and a Senior RA, students won't have to check in at a security desk when they walk in the building late at night like they would at most colleges and universities.

Baker says that although she doesn't anticipate problems with the students living in housing "the lease agreement that the students sign does." This agreement includes "Community Policies," which discusses the student's

responsibilities with on-campus living.

Some students questioned said the housing is a good idea because it'll help the students who have long commutes, and others said it was a good idea simply because they "want out of their own house, away from their parents," as one student put it. However, Centennial Commons will not be an opportunity for one big party.

The estimated age range according to Baker is 18-21. But, students who are legal to drink will not be allowed to drink in their room or anywhere else on the Commons. Those caught drinking will be sanctioned.

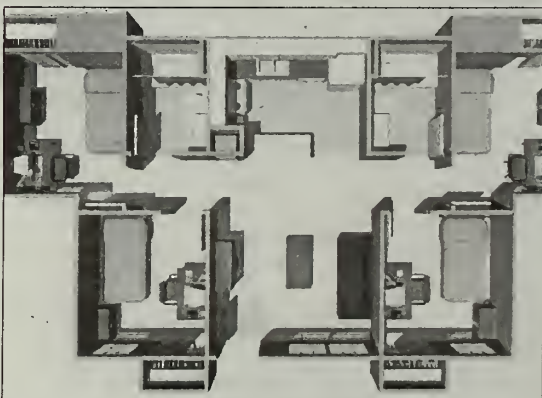
Other rules include no smoking and a quiet hour policy so "individuals can sleep and study in peace," says Baker.



Layout of a one-bedroom apartment, with the bed in the lower right corner



Layout of a two-bedroom apartment, with beds on the right and left side.



Layout of the four-bedroom apartment, with beds in all four corners

Our View

Business ethics: How will we stack up against the leaders of today?

We have heard time and time again throughout grade school, high school and college that we are "the future leaders of America." It's true! We are indeed the future doctors, lawyers and teachers of this great country. We are also the future Fortune 500 Company CEOs and the future accountants of America.

Every generation strives to be more successful, more productive and to leave a bigger "mark" than the one before it. That's us. We will be the generation with desires of exceeding all expectations of the prior generation. From what we hear on the news, it doesn't seem like we have to do much to exceed the standards set forth by our current leaders.

On Dec. 11, 2001, energy giant Enron Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, the largest filing in history.

Enron Chairman Kenneth L. Lay apparently encouraged his employees in September to buy more Enron shares and reassured them that the company's upcoming quarterly financial report was "looking great" only weeks before the energy trader disclosed

the worst results in its history.

Employees with shares of Enron's stock, which peaked at nearly \$90 per share in August 2000, were now owners of stock worth mere pennies. Top Enron executives had time to sell their shares before the company filed for bankruptcy.

The company was able to pull this off with the help of accountants at Anderson, one of the top five accounting firms in the nation.

On Jan. 25, former Enron executive J. Clifford Baxter committed suicide, leaving behind a note expressing his feelings regarding the Enron Corp. situation.

Lives lost, families destroyed and companies ruined... and why did this all happen? There was a complete lack of business ethics. Top-dog CEOs put the dollar before the employee. It was all happening, it is happening, and it will continue to happen for as long as they are able to get away with it.

That means we have to do something about it. As we gradually begin to filter into the corpo-

rate job market, we must remember the errors of our elders.

Some businesses we work at may have practices that are unethical. They may not be misreporting billions of dollars in debt, but if they are able to deceive one customer or one employee and make or save a few bucks, they will continue to do so with more customers and more employees. As employees, we assume they are doing it for a good reason. We might even earn a sort of bonus for just "play along."

This is where you must step back and evaluate your values. Are you willing to face the worst possible consequence of your actions over the small financial or personal gain you may receive?

Take a stand! If you work in sales, refuse to play along with the gimmicks they use to make a quick buck, but hurt the buyer in the long run. Better yet, talk to your bosses...make sure they are aware of legal repercussions of their actions, or even the guilt they might feel later. You may lose a job here or there, but you will never lose your dignity.

Letter to the editor

Development not all it's cracked up to be

I've always been under the impression that people move to the suburbs to get away from the crowded city life. That's why I can't understand why these same people are now making all the suburbs into bigger cities.

I've lived in Mokena for about five years, and when we moved my parents bought an older house, which was built in the 70s. In less than five years I've watched almost all of the farmland in Mokena be turned into the same "cookie-cutter" houses. It's disgusting. Not only does it look ridiculous, but it's not good for the environment or the houses that have already been in the town for a while.

It's a commonly accepted fact that when it rains, all that water needs a place to go. When the land becomes a continuous block of pavement and concrete,

the water has a difficult time. This causes flooding and pools of sitting water. Not many people like indoor swimming pools in their basements, or getting attacked by swarms of killer mosquitoes.

Another problem with building tons of houses in the same areas is that the traffic gets unbreakable. Small towns were always nice because of the small town feel to them. People want that feel, but they also want a shopping center less than five blocks away and a Gas City on every corner.

You just can't have it both ways. I suppose it's to late to do anything about it now, but just remember that there was a time when trees actually outnumbered houses, and the drive home was a peaceful one.

Jason Baloun



Letter Policy

The *Blazer* encourages participation from readers through letters.

Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the *Blazer* office at H-1015B.

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Editors reflect upon Vagina Monologues

Her View

by Kristin Hulva

I had never attended a performance of the "Vagina Monologues" and had no clue what to expect. The word vagina may offend some people, and at first, I have to admit that I was kind of embarrassed during the first few monologues. I think that having a guy sitting on each side of me at the production contributed to my embarrassment due to some monologues talking about menstrual cycles, orgasms, rape, sexuality (both straight and gay) and female problems in general.

I feel like our society teaches us to be "hushed" about these topics. When they are talked about publicly, most people automatically feel embarrassed. When the production was over, I didn't feel embarrassed at all. I actually feel that more guys should have attended so that they could get a feel for what women go through in life, and appreciate women more for this.

One monologue named many slang words for the vagina. Although people may feel

uncomfortable talking about the vagina, these monologues were directed at making people more comfortable with female anatomy and to hear other females give their opinion and life experiences on the subject. Most of the dialogues were meant to inform people, but be light and funny at the same time.

For example, did you know that it is illegal to sell vibrators in Alabama, Georgia and Texas but it is legal to sell guns in all of these states? The joke was made that no one has been robbed or killed by a vibrator, so why are they illegal? Guns kill and they are legal. Some laws do not make sense.

The audience ranged from JJC students to women in their 80s and yes, there were males in the audience. These monologues were meant for an older, more mature audience due to the language.

Other monologues, I feel, brought all of us women together and made us appreciate the conditions we live in when a monologue talked about women in other countries being raped and not having the ability to do anything about it. Other women's

cultures believe in having the vagina sewn together to assure that she is still a virgin when her parents give her away in an arranged marriage. This practice of sewing the vagina, which is done most of the time with a razor or piece of glass at home, causes painful infections, loss of blood and can lead to the women not being able to reproduce.

This experience, I feel, brought every woman together who saw the production because we could relate to all the issues talked about. As a woman, I walked away from this experience wanting to share with others the facts and stories of other women across the world. By passing along the stories of other women, we can eradicate female topics being taboo in our society.



His View

by Scott Bessler

The Herald News published letters by community members wishing to express their "disapproval" of a taxpayer-supported community college performing a play that, in their opinions, was not "appropriate" in a social context.

This was ultimately an issue of ignorance on the part of the vocal minority in the community.

The Vagina Monologues was designed to make its viewers, both female and male, more accepting of this topic, still regarded as socially forbidden.

Before viewing this show for the first time as presented by the fine arts theatre at JJC, I had my own preconceptions about it. I had heard about it, and loosely knew what the content of it was.

I figured I would have to go into the show with a bit more maturity than I am accustomed to.

I didn't plan on being offended by the show's content, but I admit, I thought there would be a few awkward situations.

I was wrong!

The show turned out to be an

eye-opener on topics that don't affect just women. Namely, how women are treated in other countries, and the oppressive situations they are born into and cannot escape from. This is a subject that deserves universal awareness, and has only recently been touched upon in our society, mostly under the circumstances of the Sept. 11 attacks on our country.

The show, despite its serious messages, was also very entertaining and comical. Which is why I don't think I felt as out-of-place as I believed I would. There were moments that left me looking at the audience around me for guidance on how to react to something that was said, but that was just for the sake of not wanting to over- or under-react.

The content of the show was best suited for audience members at the high school level or higher, as was recommended by the show's flyers.

For any guys who plan on seeing this show in the future, disregard any preconceptions you have about the show. With an open mind, you will be not only more informed, but also entertained.

Harassment on main campus is a serious issue

by Jessica Harvey

Many female students are hesitant to walk past one particular area on campus. This place is the TV room located on the bridge.

Certain individuals on the bridge yell obscenities, make sexual comments and even try to stop young women from crossing the bridge. One young woman I talked to was walking past the TV

room when someone yelled, "Hey, you!" She ignored this person and continued walking. However, the person resorted to calling her names such as "slut" and "bitch."

"Because of this incident I did not want to pass the bridge again, so I did not go to my next class. This was not the first incident like this, either," said Feryal Khan, a student at JJC.

Some people may wonder

why this behavior is allowed on campus. The majority of people "see this happening" everyday while they are at school, but people are afraid, confused or not sure where to report these incidents. Hopefully this article will help clear up the issue of reporting sexual harassment at school.

The JJC student code of conduct states, "Sexual harassment includes any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual

favours, or other conduct of a sexual nature when the student's "scholastic program," "extracurricular activities," or participation in other JJC programs are or will be affected by the student's decision to accept or reject the sexual conduct."

Sexual harassment also occurs when "the sexual conduct creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment."

You should also write down the time and place where the incident occurred. It is helpful to create a list of possible witnesses or friends who have experienced the

same sexual advances to find out if they would help you to get the sexual harassment to stop.

While it may be helpful to confront the alleged harasser, prepare a written statement, or identify witnesses, it is not required that you do so before reporting the harassment.

If students feel that they have been sexually harassed, they can report the incident to the dean of student development in D-1010.

JJC is a learning institution, and students should not have to deal with abuse or feel as though their safety is being threatened.

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StAR office reaches out to students needing extra help

by Jennifer Graves

What would it be like to not be able to read the board, hear the instructor or walk across the bridge to get to your classes? Of course most students are able to do these simple tasks; imagine being a student who cannot.

Special needs students with documented disabilities have an office they can turn to for assistance. This office is called StAR (Student Accommodations and Resources).

StAR is an office specializing in helping fill the needs of students who have special accommodation needs on campus.

The office is located in

J-2009. In this room, students who have documented disabilities or needs will find the help they require.

StAR has professional tutors and note taker's as well as computer software designed to help those with physical disabilities and learning disorders.

Professional tutors have backgrounds in most of the required math, English, psychology and CIS classes.

There are a variety of resources available through the office for students to utilize.

They include study rooms and testing accommodations as well as referrals to other offices

that may fill the needs of the particular student.

The retention rate among students is high. After seeking assistance through StAR, many students see an improvement in their learning skills and classroom assimilation.

"Success out of the office is phenomenal," Dennis Haynes, dean of occupational programs and work force preparation at JJC.

Student Resources and Accommodations were originally called the special needs office. A little over a year ago the office staff adopted the acronym StAR.

The office supports the idea

that every student has the right to an education. This idea is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's disability.

The office has seen a steady increase in students, according to Haynes. "I have seen the program grow by leaps and bounds," said Haynes.

The office also sponsors a Transition Fair in collaboration with the community, high schools and businesses. At this fair stu-

dents are given employment opportunities, and literature from employment agencies in an effort to help them transition from college to job.

Resources are also available at the North Campus, but should be made by appointment.

Any students interested in learning more about StAR or getting involved should contact Carol Smith, StAR coordinator. Literature is also available in pamphlets in many of the campus magazine racks.

Question of the Issue: What is your most memorable Valentine's Day?



Danielle Anderson

"My boyfriend took me on a walk and made me a picnic lunch, then we watched the stars."



Rob Amundson

"I bought my girlfriend a dozen roses."



"Bob"

"We made sweet lovin' n'l the sun came up."



Jamie Trobiani

"I filled up my boyfriend's car with balloons, and in the balloons were confetti and a poem that he had to puzzle together."



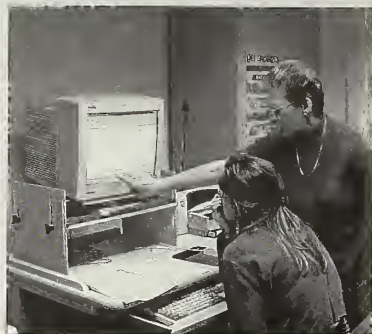
Celie Pauley

"My boyfriend at the time took me on a dinner train to Minnesota."



Brian Delaney

"Do you even know how Valentine's originated? During the Cold War, members of the KGB would mail love notes that contained a secret message to one another. Soviet spies still use this method today."



Student receives help from the StAR program located on the second floor of J-building.

Photo courtesy of Mike O'Brien

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Photos and copy by Jessica Harvey

JJC's agriculture students dominate the competition

Joliet Junior College agriculture students are dominated the competition in their first year as Post-Secondary Agriculture Student Organization (PAS) members. The PAS organization was formed to promote professional leadership among junior college agriculture students. Through various events, PAS members are familiarized with

the importance of agriculture and improve their knowledge base and leadership skills.

On Feb. 1 and 2 the group traveled to Illinois Central College in East Peoria for the Illinois Annual Conference.

There were five areas of competition that the members participated in.

The Agriculture Collegiate

Bowl team members, Alan Behrends, Travis Sweden, Craig Davis, Jeff Landers and Robb Thomas, won their way through the rounds to win the championship. The competition quizzed the students on their broad knowledge of all agricultural fields.

The win qualifies them to compete in the National PAS contest March 13-16 in Mankato,

Minnesota.

Individually competing, Jeff Landers prepared an impromptu speech on Animal Production, and placed second. Travis Sweden competed in the individual area of Agriculture Discussion that is much like a debate regarding agriculture issues. Travis qualified for the finals and placed fourth overall.

Due to the increasing use of technology in agriculture, members were tested on their computer ability in the computer contest. The computer team placed third overall with Jennifer Triplett fourth individual and Valerie Buttry ninth. Other team members were Deidra Bosserdet, Christine Soukup, Adam Cave, Andy Hildenbrand and Brandon Lakin.

PAS members also partici-

pated in the Horticulture division. Teams of two members worked through identification of plant material, pests and diseases, as well as an exam and problem solving calculations.

The Horticulture team won second place, with Christine Soukup first individual. Other participants were Brandon Lakin, Andrea Shumard, Deidra Bosserdet, Valerie Buttry and Jennifer Triplett.

Joliet Junior College's PAS members are now back home preparing for the National Contest and working on other projects to boost the club's activities.

Tammy Miller serves as the club advisor for PAS and the Student Agriculture Association.

For more information contact Tammy Miller at 815-280-2424.



Front row, left to right: Jennifer Triplett, Chris Soukup, Deidra Bosserdet, Andrea Shumard, Valerie Buttry, Tammy Miller - advisor

Back row, left to right: Brandon Lakin, Jeff Landers, Robb Thomas, Craig Davis, Alan Behrends, Andy Hildenbrand, Travis Sweden, Adam Cave

Photo courtesy of agriculture department

News Briefs

Campus Police: The Rape Aggressions Defense Systems will be holding a 12-hour course in self-defense tactics to prevent sexual assault this month. The classes are open to women ages 16 and over. Classes are offered on four consecutive Fridays for three hours each class. Classes are on March 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in KK102. There is a one-time fee of \$25 per person. Classes are limited to 10 people per class. For further information or to make reservations for a class call Joe Sikora at 280-2234.

a.m. to noon in room J-0006. This event is open to any JJC student who is considering transferring to a senior college. The universities will discuss topics such as financial aid and scholarships, and answer questions that students may have. Lunch will be provided. For further information contact Angie Kaysen Luzbetak at 280-2449.

Phi Theta Kappa: There is a general meeting scheduled on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 5 p.m. in the middle of the bridge.

Athletic Department: In the fall 2002 semester JJC will be starting a varsity women's soccer team. Any female students who will be here next fall and are interested in playing soccer should contact Mr. Furlan in the Athletic Department at 280-2379 or e-mail at dfurlan@jjc.cc.il.us

Office of Admissions & Student Recruitment: Governors State University will be holding a Spring Opco House on March 16 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. For more information or to RSVP contact the Governors State University admissions office at (708)534-4490.

Multicultural Transfer Center: There will be a Navigating College: Minority Student & Parent Orientation Question & Answer Session on Tuesday, March 5 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in room J-0006. This event provides information about the opportunities available to minority students at JJC. For further information contact Angie Kaysen Luzbetak at 280-2449.

The Multicultural Transfer Center will also be holding two Transfer Center Lunch and Learns with National Louis University on Thursday, Feb. 21 from 11 a.m. to noon in room J-0006 and Benedictine University on Tuesday, March 5 from 11

Did you know? Summer 2002 Financial Aid

There will be a change happening this year when it comes to financial aid. Joliet Junior College has been a "lead" school in awarding financial aid for many years. This means that when a student qualifies for financial aid, summer classes get paid for first then fall classes and finally spring courses. The problem that can and has occurred with students is that by the time spring comes around, students have run out of financial aid money and then have to pay for their classes on their own.

JJC will now become a "trailer" school, and this summer

will be the transition period. Students will have to use their aid from 2001/2002 to pay for this summer's courses. Starting the summer of 2003, your fall classes will be paid for first, then spring courses and lastly the summer courses. This is hoped to be better for students with financial aid because most students take only fall and spring courses and then won't have to worry about running out of money in the summer.

If you have any questions contact the JJC financial aid office at 815-280-2283. Courtesy of Student Alliance



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Ecstasy: the deadly club drug craze

by Kristin Hulva

A new craze is sweeping the nation. It is not a boy band, reality television or even the latest fashion. It is a deadly drug whose use is climbing at an alarming rate.

MDMA, or "ecstasy," has continued to become more popular among illegal drug users. This stimulant drug has taken the lives of college students and young adults and therefore it is becoming more important than ever to learn what can happen when taking ecstasy.

This drug can produce stimulant effects such as an enhanced sense of pleasure and self-confidence, and increased energy.

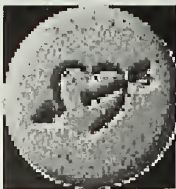
"Amber," a sophomore at Joliet Junior College, took ecstasy for the first time when she was 21 years old at a dance club.

"I took the drug about three times due to peer pressure. It relaxed me and made me feel euphoric. I always had to be moving during the trip, which lasted about three hours for me," said Amber. "During my personal experience, there wasn't any depression that followed after using the drug, which is why I feel the drug is popular among young adults."

Keep in mind that the drug's rewarding effects vary with the individual taking it, the dosage and purity, and the environment in which it is taken. For many users it causes strong feelings of comfort, empathy and connection to others. These effects make this drug popular amongst those who participate in all-night dance parties called "raves."

Ecstasy is a fairly new drug that only hit the streets in the

1980's and didn't become popular until the 1990s. This drug is also known as XTC, clarity, essence and Adam.



According to Pam Davis, Clinical Coordinator of Chemical dependency Services at Silver Cross Illinois, club drug use is on the rise. In 1998, only 5.9 percent of the drugs being used by teenagers were club drugs. That jumped to 8 percent in 2000.

This, Davis feels, is due to the increase in the use of ecstasy.

For those who have never seen ecstasy, it is a white powder that usually comes in the form of a tablet that resembles an aspirin. These tablets are usually embossed with pop-culture icons such as the Playboy bunny or a smiley face.

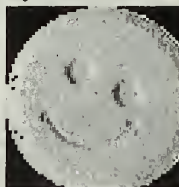
Ecstasy's "high" can last approximately three to four hours when taken orally, with a possible period of two to six hours where it is difficult to go to sleep and the user experiences a noticeable difference from everyday reality. This is known as the "crash," when the effects are wearing off. The primary problem associated with crashing is that some users find themselves re-dosing in order to save their high. Ecstasy can stay in the user's system for 96 hours. It is hard to tell for sure if someone is using ecstasy unless you know the person very well.

The summer after I graduated from high school everyone I knew started to do ecstasy, said "Kate," a sophomore at JJC. "My friends looked like drug addicts when they were on it. I didn't do it for that reason and because I didn't want to be out of control for hours at a time. I would leave parties because I didn't like to be around my friends when they were on it. Everything about ecstasy disgusts me."



Of course, all illegal drugs have negative side effects, a lot of which people are either uneducated about or don't want to face the facts about. Users may experience

side effects like confusion, depression, persistent memory problems, sleep problems, anxiety and paranoia during and sometimes weeks after taking the drug.



Physical effects can include muscle tension, involuntary teeth-clenching, nausea, blurred vision, faintness and chills or sweating. Increase in heart rate and blood pressure are a special risk for people with circulatory or heart disease. Ecstasy-related fatalities caused by the stimulant effects of the drug have been reported at raves. The drug enables the user to dance for extended periods, and combined with the hot, crowded conditions usually found at raves it can lead to dehydration, hypothermia and heart or kidney failure.

The biggest problem in taking ecstasy, or any drug, is that the user can never be sure exactly what the pill contains. Pills bought as ecstasy have been known to contain speed, caffeine, ephedrine and amphetamines, and some don't even contain MDMA, the main ingredient of ecstasy.

Users do have the opportunity, if they refuse to quit using the drug, to order a test kit from www.dancesafe.org to see if the pill has any ecstasy in it, but the kit won't tell you what else is in it. For more information you can contact www.drugabuse.gov with any other questions that you might have.

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International student club helps students integrate into American college life

By Jessica Harvey

Have you ever wanted to meet people from different countries and learn more about different cultures but didn't know where to look? Look no further than the JJC International Student Club. There are people attending JJC from countries such as Poland, Ukraine, Venezuela and Hong Kong.

The International Student Club was started this semester, and the club's objective is to bring cultural awareness and understanding to the JJC campus. In the past, international students have been asked to talk about their cultures and experiences to sociology classes at JJC.

"People need to be aware of other cultures to avoid misunderstandings," said Tom Tretowicz of Poland.

Siu Kit Lo, a student from Hong Kong and vice president of the International Student Club, does not want students to think that the club is only open to international students.

"Not too many people at JJC know that we have international students, and they don't even know that there is a club. Anyone who is interested in learning about different cultures can join," said Lo.

Another objective of the International Student Club is to provide an opportunity for exchange students to meet friends. Lo understands that it is difficult to meet new people when students first come to a new coun-

try. "My sister came to see me last summer. Sometimes I miss my friends in Hong Kong, but I have also made friends here."

The club hopes to have fundraisers and activities in the future which may include a field trip to Chinatown and other ethnic villages in Chicago.

The first official meeting for The International Student Club will be on Wednesday Feb. 20 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. This

meeting will also be a potluck party. Everyone is asked to bring their own traditional dish or favorite food to the party.

The International Student Club meets on the first Wednesday of every month at noon, and on the last Tuesday of every month at 11 a.m. For further information, please e-mail Dr. Berta Arias at barias@jic.cc.il.us or visit her office in room C1058.



Siu Kit Lo from Hong Kong and Masha Ramadina from the Ukraine visit China Town together in Chicago.

Photos courtesy of International Student club



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HOROSCOPES

by Mike Abergail



Pisces-Guys- You will go to the movies where you will meet a girl who is beautiful and the one for you. **Girls-** Go to the movies, wear a sweater.



Aries-The sea is foaming like a bottle of beer. The waves are coming but you will have no fear.



Taurus-In the coming days you will get into "one little fight" and your mother will become frightened for your safety and suggest that you move to Bel-Aire to live with your Auntie and Uncle.



Gemini- This month the stars tell you to push it to the limit and walk along the razor's edge. Welcome to the limit.



Cancer- Stand up for yourself. You are mad as hell and not going to take it anymore! Go ahead say it: "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore!" Good, repeat as needed.



Leo- This month you will find yourself at a "cross-road." You're not a girl, but not yet a woman.



Virgo- You are a Virgo. Don't get crazy. You will have to pretend you're lonely to get a sweet ass



apartment with two lovely ladies. Wackiness will ensue.

Libra- You and your loved one use to like the song "you drive me crazy" until your loved one really started to drive you crazy. Go ahead and dump the loved one...you have more fun with your friends anyway.



Scorpio- You are destined for prosperity. In the coming days. You will move to California after accidentally coming upon a find of crude oil while out hunting with your trusty bloodhound.



Sagittarius- The person you met last week is nice to look at but boring to talk to. (Too bad.) Hey, you can't have everything.



Capricorn- This month you will be bombarded with decimating failures. Don't expect things to get better soon. Oh...uh...yeah. And you will find true love...face down in a toilet. Phrase that pays- yes you can!!!!



Aquarius- This month you will find yourself at the White Castle drive through at 3 a.m. after a late night drinking binge...upon waking up in the morning you will realize why they are called sliders.

2002 brings Hollywood dirt to pop music stars and actors

by Molly McKeon

It's been a busy month in Hollywood. Sure, the New Year brought its share of Hollywood Award shows, movie premieres and after parties, but it has not failed to reveal the scandals, and E! worthy dish on our favorite stars that the tabloids and fans love to eat up.

Pop Icon, **Mariah Carey** recently found herself record label-less after signing a \$21 million dollar, multi-album deal with Virgin Records last April. After disappointing sales of her latest album and movie "Glitter," the record label dropped her paying her off \$28 million in the process.

Rock band **Limp Bizkit** is on a nationwide search for a new guitarist after former band member and guitarist **Wes Borland** left the group late last year. They are currently half-way through their search giving many musicians the opportunity to audition.

On screen star **Winona Ryder** recent-

ly had a run-in with the law after being caught shoplifting at a Fifth Avenue store in Beverly Hills back in December. Ryder plead not guilty Feb. 5 to four felony accounts of grand theft, second-degree commercial burglary, vandalism and possession of a controlled substance. She attempted

to steal over \$4,000 in merchandise and is due back in court March 11.

The **Backstreet Boys** seem to be shedding their "good-boy" image these days. The youngest member of the group, **Nick Carter**, was recently arrested at a Tampa nightclub for refusing to leave after ordered to by police. He was charged with resisting/opposing a law enforcement officer without violence. However, his charge will be dropped if he successfully completes a pre-trial intervention program that includes community service, a period of probation and a \$200 fine. In an official statement Carter said, "I truly believe my celebrity status motivated the officer to arrest me. I am certain that after a full investigation of the facts, my name will be cleared."

R&B singer and film star **Brandy** recently revealed she was secretly married over the summer to producer and songwriter **Robert Smith**. After keeping the marriage under wraps for over six months, the 21-year-old songstress artist revealed the secret to MTV in early February.

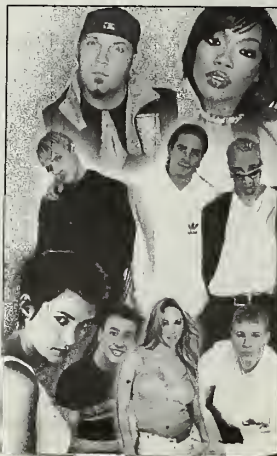


Photo created by Kaye Butz

JJC fine arts department to present *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*

by Kristin Henschel

Do the regular movie choices seem dull lately? Is nothing really catching your interest? Thanks to the Fine Arts Department, Joliet Junior College has just what you may be looking for.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum will be presented as JJC's spring musical.

The plot of the play centers on **Pseudolus** (Geoff Arndt), a slave that wants his freedom at any cost. **Pseudolus's** amusing sidekick is **Hysterium** (Rob Culp). Together, the two men are put in charge to watch over **Hero** (Derrick Trumbly). **Hero** is the young son of the men's masters, who is deeply in love with **Philia** (Teya Langlois), a gorgeous harlot from the house of **Marcus Lycus** (Justin Ongena).

Pseudolus is promised his freedom by **Hero** under the condition he can bring **Philia** to **Hero**. Although **Pseudolus** agrees, the situation he finds himself in is more difficult than he had originally anticipated.

Another factor thrown in to add to *Forum's* excellence is a number of energetic songs.

Forum has been described by its cast as upbeat, wacky and enjoyable.

The play is directed by Clay

Kirkland, with musical direction by Sue Malmberg.

Opening night is Thursday, Feb. 28 and continues through Sunday, March 3. Feb. 28 - March 2. *Forum* begins at 8 p.m. The final performance on March 3 begins at 2:30 p.m. *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* will be performed in JJC's Fine Arts Department in "K" building.

Ticket prices for the general public are \$7. For senior citizens,

non-JJC students, JJC faculty and staff tickets are \$5. For JJC students tickets are \$3.

For further information or for a chance to make a reservations, contact **Nicks Blowers** at (815) 280-2200.

Instead of taking the usual trip to rent a movie why not go for a little change and a lot of fun and attend *A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum*.



Students prepare for musical to be performed at the Fine Arts Theatre at JJC's Main Campus.

Photo by Jessica Harvey

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Lord of the Awards

Fellowship receives 13 nods; Ron Howard welcomed

by Matt Sheehan

March is a wonderful time of the year. St. Patrick's Day is the day everybody becomes a wee bit o' Irish; Wrestlemania, the pre-

Director and Best Adapted Screenplay, and Ian McKellen was nominated for Best Supporting Actor. The other nominations *Lord of the Rings* received were technical awards (sound, sound editing, visual effects, costume design, etc.). Following *Lord*, tied for second for the most nominations was *A Beautiful Mind* and *Moulin Rouge*, each with eight nominations. Both received nods in Best Picture and the Best Actor/Actress categories, which puts Nicole Kidman up for her first Oscar and Russell Crowe with his third consecutive Best Actor nomination—*The Insider* in 1999 and *Gladiator* last year, for which he won—and a potential second straight win. *Moulin Rouge*, however, was shut out of the Best Director category for Baz

Luhrmann. In the directing category, along with Peter Jackson, Ron Howard finally received a Best Director nod for *A Beautiful Mind*. Ridley Scott, whose *Black Hawk Down* was shut out of the Best Picture category, received a directing nod, the highest nomination his filmed received. Also, famed director Robert Altman received his seventh Oscar nod, his sixth for directing, for his

socialist murder comedic mystery *Gosford Park*. Also to note: Altman won directing honors at the Golden Globes in January. *Gosford Park* received a total of seven nominations. Notable African-American acting roles also caught fire this year with three African-Americans receiving nods in the major acting categories: Will Smith (*Ali*) and Denzel Washington (*Training Day*) for Best Actor, and Halle Berry (*Monster's Ball*) for Best Actress. All three have great performances and have a real shot of winning in their respective categories.

This year is the first year for the newly created Best Animated Feature category. This category was only created for *Shrek* NOT to receive a Best Picture nomination, which it so much deserves. Along with *Shrek* are *Monsters, Inc.* and *Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius*.

Overall, this year is one of the first where there is no clear winner (Titanic, for example, we ALL knew it would win—we just didn't know how many). Also for the first time, do not look for the film with the most nominations to take Best Picture honors and/or the most awards. Anyway, here are my picks:

Best Picture: *A Beautiful Mind*



A beautiful mind

Best Director: Ron Howard, *A Beautiful Mind*

Howard Shore, *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*

Best Actor: Russell Crowe, *A Beautiful Mind*

Best Adapted Screenplay: *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*

Best Actress: Halle Berry, *Monster's Ball*

Best Original Screenplay: *Memento*

Best Supporting Actor: Ian McKellen, *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*

Film with the most wins: *A Beautiful Mind* with 6

Best Supporting Actress: Jennifer Connelly, *A Beautiful Mind*

*For a more in-depth analysis and more predictions of the Oscars, new reviews of *Monsters Ball* and *Black Hawk Down*, and much more, visit: www.geocities.com/npj94jlc*

Best Original Score:



mier event in sports entertainment, lays the smackdown on the NCAA "March Madness" begins. Ob, and a little thing called the Academy Awards takes place in the third month of the year.

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring movie that received 13 nominations, the most than any other film. Including Best Picture, Peter Jackson was nominated for Best

Dear Mandy

Readers ask Mandy questions pertaining to dating, style, and confidentiality.

Dear Mandy,

Hi! I am a '24-year-old female. I'm a freshman here, and I'm also a lesbian. I don't know very many people here and I'm kind of uncomfortable around the other students. I don't talk to very many males or females, because I'm afraid that they'll think I'm "weird" or "disgusting" or "hitting on them."

Mandy, how do I open up to people and make friends here? P.S. Am I the only one?

In need of a friend

Dear "In need,"

Don't be afraid to let people know who you are! In order to make friends, you have to step outside of your "comfort zone." Everyone feels uncomfortable at first when making new friends. And... NO you are NOT the only one who is "gay" or "lesbian" on

the JJC campus. There are others out there! As a matter of fact, JJC has a club or a "support group" if you will. It's called the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Club. You can find more about this online at the JJC website www.jjc.cc.il.us.

Dear Mandy,

I'm going to be 27 years old this February and I've never ever had a date. Do you think that there's a girl so ugly that no guy could ever love her?

Dear Unlucky-27,

First of all, it is really your opinion of yourself? Do you really feel that you're ugly? If you do, that is the main issue here. Most guys go for girls that radiate confidence. If you are confident in yourself, and you accept who you are, then guys will too!

My opinion, (and to answer your question!) the answer is NO! There is no girl so ugly that she can't be loved! Accept your flaws, and enjoy them! They set you apart and make you unique! And as long as you have confidence in who you are and remain social, I am positive you will find someone who will love you!



Lord of the Rings

Music Review

by Jason Baloun

CD Ratings by Jason Baloun

**** Skip class and go buy it

*** Buy it at later date

** Find someone who has it and copy it

* Find someone who has it and laugh



Chris Isaak
Always Got Tonight

There is nothing wrong with having a softer side to your personality, and that's the side Chris Isaak makes his music for. Isaak's new release "Always Got Tonight" is primarily soft and melodic rock.

If you close your eyes while listening to songs like "Cool Love" and "I See you Everywhere," you almost feel

like you're drifting away to wherever it is you want to go (this is not recommended while driving).

One of Isaak's biggest draws is that he has the ability to convey such emotion in his voice. "Life Will Go On" is a perfect example of this.

Even if you can't relate to the lyrics, you feel sorry for the poor person he's singing about.

"Always Got Tonight" has on minor flaw, it's too short. The CD runs approximately 41 minutes long, and several songs don't even reach the three minute mark.

This disc is worth getting if you enjoy smooth sedating sounds, and I guarantee that any guy who plays this while his girlfriend is in the car will have a very good night.

February 20, 2002

Students can now apply for scholarships and aid

by Carrie Roderick

With many college students or soon to be students unaware of the scholarship and financial aid opportunities available to them, JJC is having its annual Free Application for Federal Student Aid Completion Workshop.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, Feb. 23, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in C Building. This will give students the opportunity to receive assistance from trained financial aid staff in completing the 2002-2003 financial aid application and transmitting it through the internet. This event is open to all parents/students in the district, whether or not they attend JJC.

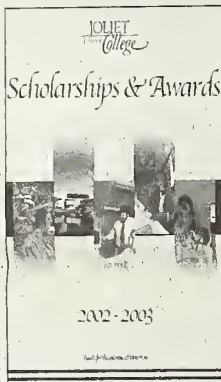
By completing the FAFSA in February, students will meet financial aid deadlines at the colleges they are considering. Federal and state applications usually take four to six weeks to process. Students planning to attend the workshop may need to provide a copy of their or their parent's latest Federal Income Tax return or tax information from that return, explained Jennifer M. Klobierz, director of financial aid office.

"What a lot of people don't realize is that some of them are eligible for some form of financial aid, whether it be in the form of grants, scholarships, students' employment or loans," said Klobierz. "The results take a while to get back,

so the earlier people apply the better."

To apply for scholarships students must fill out the FAFSA application first. April 1, 2002, is the deadline for most of JJC's scholarship opportunities, but state college and other university deadlines could be as early as March. The Scholarships & Awards listing book is available in the financial aid office or students can also check out scholarships on www.aaam.org. The financial aid office also has a list of other websites for scholarship information.

Students are encouraged to apply for all scholarships they are eligible for. Many scholarships go unclaimed each year.



Scholarship availability and deadline information can be obtained from the financial aid office or JJC's website.

JJC fitness center helps students, staff and faculty shed winter pounds

by Kristin Henschel

There are many benefits to working out regularly. By joining JJC's College's Fitness Center, students will find out that it is a great place to meet students every workout need. JJC's Fitness Center has a 12-machine circuit along with many other weight and exercise machines that provide its users with a full-body workout.

"The best part of the circuit is, that it is fast and effective. I know that I can work out all my muscles and do it in minimal time," said JJC sophomore Megan Allison. The most recent purchase for the Fitness Center has been their new Woodway Treadmills.

"We have a Fitness Center Advisory Committee that is made up of members from 18 to 81 years old. When we are looking to buy new equipment, we take a survey of what we want in a particular machine. With this information, the committee inspects all the vendors and decides what is the best," said John Peterson, director of the Fitness Center.

"I really like the new treadmills because they have new options such as the heart monitor and the adjustable speed on the side handle. It makes running on them more convenient," said JJC freshman Samantha Helfrich.

When new members join, they pay a \$97 fee plus an \$11 fee for orientation. The orientation fee is paid only once. Returning members will only pay the \$97. This covers one semester of working out.

By signing up for the Fitness Center, other exercise classes will also be available. Classes such as step aerobics, cycling/indoor spinning, pilates and yoga.

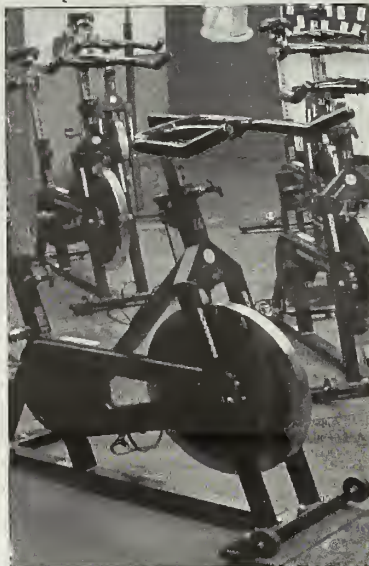
I was not sure how to use. It was not long before someone spotted me and came over to help," said Allison.

If looking at a plain wall does not stimulate a student's visual sense, another benefit to working out in the JJC Fitness Center is the great view.

Behind the circuit machines

is a window the size of the wall. While working out, members are able to gaze outside.

The Fitness Center also has convenient hours during the week. They open at 5:30 a.m. and do not close until 8:30 p.m., Monday through Friday Saturday and Sunday, the center is open from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m.



Fitness center members can also take part in spinning classes offered several times a week.

Photo by Kaye Butz

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RAVALLIS
12
PLAY
COFFEE
WINE
BEER
VIEW
DONUTS
ROCKETS



The fitness center's new Woodway treadmills have proven to be popular with members and JJC athletes as well.

Photo by Kaye Butz

New student group takes a stand: Will you?

By Olivia Mata

No one can refute that the world we live in is far less than perfect. We don't have to extend our sights too far to see the ailments that our fellow man endures. Negative world issues such as poverty, racism and exploitation are so prevalent that we accept them as a part of our reality. While we feel for those in compromising situations it is often difficult for us to remove ourselves from our security long enough to truly understand the severity of their devastation.

The American Freedom Organization is a group on campus whose establishment was prompted to combat the communal idea of "how unfortunate." Organization members feel that we all have a social and political responsibility to humankind. Their major incentives are to promote change and to educate the society of the corruption that we are actually contributing to. In respect to the issues of hunger and poverty, A.F.O. hosted Rock Against Hunger, an on-campus concert this past December, requesting the entrance fee of a non-perishable food item. The food collected was then distributed to organizations in the Joliet area.

With the great support generated through this concert, a similar concert entitled Rock Against Injustice has been set for this March.

A current area of concern for the organization to focus on is on the use of sweatshop labor to manufacture products bearing the phrase "Made in the U.S.A." Have we become so trusting that we see these words and take them at face value? Do we even check labels before we purchase or is our sole focus the price tag? After WWII the United States gained control of the Northern Mariana's Islands, which manufactures



The A.F.O. promotes change and the education of the society about the corruption that we, as consumers, are actually contributing to. The A.F.O. members gather regularly to discuss world issues in order to bring about positive change.

goods through the use of sweatshop labor, particularly on the main Island of Saipan. So, how is it that their labels say "Made in the U.S.A.?" Manipulative corporations can get away with this because the Northern Mariana's Islands are a United States territory, yet we unspectingly assume that these products were manufactured in America.

The clothing produced in these heinous sweatshop conditions bear the names of some of the most sought after name brands. If you wear clothes from some major American retailers, you may actually be supporting just a small portion of the corporations that gain profits from sweatshops like the one's in Saipan. The American Freedom Organization is so disturbed by the use of sweatshop labor and the American consumer support it generates, they are determined to

educate us on our contribution to such social ills. Their dedication to advocacy extends beyond campus life. Members of A.F.O. have demonstrated at The Gap and Old Navy (in both Joliet and Orland) on multiple occasions to greet customers at the entrance with informational leaflets, according to A.F.O. Chairman Patrick Hannigan.

A.F.O. members express a great sense of satisfaction when they feel customers are turned away from their shopping excursions after being enlightened about the undechanded abuses corporations are carrying out.

Members of the organization have also visited Banana Republic seeking answers to questions; instead they received an escort out by mall security, Hannigan said.

According to the Global Exchange, "in 1999, Gap Inc., the

owners of The Gap, Old Navy, and Banana Republic earned \$1.1 billion in profits off of \$11.6 billion in sales. Gap CEO Millard Drexler is one of the best compensated executives in the country, receiving \$172.8 million in salary, bonuses and stock options."

Members of the American Freedom Organization look upon such matters with even greater disgust because we have the option to stop injustice, particularly this type of modern day slavery.

Members find that people are generally apathetic to their cause, particularly on campus. American Freedom Organization vice-chairman Mike Gallo responds to such arrogant attitudes with the quote, "ignorance is bliss."

Members contest that we are far too comfortable in our "capitalistic" lives to concern our-

selves with the underlying factors contributing to our security, and for that we are ignorant.

The American Freedom Organization implores you to get involved in world issues in order to bring about positive change.

"If we don't get involved then it's like saying it's okay," said Hannigan.

This passive consent is what allows injustice to thrive in an indifferent society, he added.

The best way to fight ignorance is to open our eyes to world issues around us. Education and awareness are the best forms of defense against those who promote injustice to serve their own selfish desires.

For further information on The American Freedom Organization and the issues that they advocate visit www.actionforfreedom.org.

Photo by Eric Osterkom

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12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Open House —
Meet the Faculty, Athletics and
Student Affairs Representatives
Admission Session

1:00 or 2:00 p.m.

Financial Aid Session

1:30 p.m.

Campus Tours

12:00, 1:00 and 2:00 p.m.



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Baseball is back in the swing

Wolves look to turn around season

by Eric Carlson

The JJC baseball team is entering the 2002 baseball season with high expectations.

The Wolves will open the season ranked fourth in the nation and hope to be ranked first at the end of the season, according to head coach Wayne King.

"We have a lot of experience on this team," King said. "This will carry us throughout the season."

Some of the experience includes the pitching staff, with the starting rotation consisting of all sophomores: Brian Key, Steve Nielsen, Derek Claussen and Kevin Boyd.

K.C. Whitgrove and Andrew Gallagher bring experience to the outfield while shortstop Mike Maher and second baseman Ryan Cougill bring experience to the infield.

The Wolves finished at .500 last season with a record of 31-31 and went on to win their sixth straight conference title, but ended the season by losing in the district tournament.

King enters his 16th season just four wins shy of 500 for his career. "It's been a lot of fun. I've had a lot of good players and coaches that have contributed throughout the years," King said.

The Wolves open up their season with a home game on March 4 at 2 p.m. vs. Morton College.



by Bill Hepburn

Despite a recent eight-game skid, the Wolves men still have some games left in the regular season and the Region IV tournament to look forward to.

The Tournament in Rockford is scheduled for March 1 and 2. After their 77-66 loss to Rock Valley on Feb. 5, the Joliet Junior College Men's Basketball team dropped a game on Feb. 9 to St. Xavier IV, to Triton College on Feb. 12, and to Olive-Harvey College on Feb. 16.

Despite this tough spell, this season is comparable to the 1999-2000 season when the Wolves finished 21-11 after a strong finish.

The Wolves had an outstanding basketball season last year with head coach Joe Kuhn. It was his first year as head coach, and he achieved the best men's basketball mark since the 1994-95 season when head coach Pat Klingler finished 28-4.

The Wolves are achieving a lot this year considering there are not any starters returning from last year's team. The whole Wolves basketball team this year are freshmen, except for Joel House who is a sophomore.

Although the team consists of many freshmen they are getting the job done. AU the starters are very consistent with their performance in each game.

Gordon Morgan, a freshman from Kokomo, Ind., Trent Ellis also a freshman from Lawrence North in Indianapolis, Ind. and freshman Eddie Small from Romeoville, Ill. all are having outstanding seasons. They all have been in double figures many times this season, helping the Wolves to several victories.

During the Cincinnati Pepsi Shootout Morgan was a All-Tournament selection when he scored 29 points against Cincinnati State a Division I team.

At the JJC/UPS tournament, in November, Small was named the tournament's MVP, and he also was honored as the Region IV Player of the Week because of his performance during the Wolves' January 12 and 15 games.

At the JJC/UPS tournament, in November, Small was named the tournament's MVP, and he also was honored as the Region IV Player of the Week because of his performance during the Wolves' January 12 and 15 games.



Gordon Morgan shoots for the Wolves at a recent home game.

Photos courtesy of the athletic department

Young players finding their way for struggling ladies hoops team

by Kristin Hulva

The Lady Wolves continue to struggle, completing a winless January with an 83-63 loss to conference rival Harper.

Freshman Carrie Pickering led the team with 21 points. Ashley Fox had another all around good game, scoring 14 points and leading the team with 9 rebounds.

The women were back in action on Feb. 2 at College of Dupage. The ladies suffered another NAC loss in the contest,

falling 56-25. Fox led the team with 7 points and 6 steals. Chris Callagaris and AnneMarie Dell'Aquila contributed 4 points each to the effort.

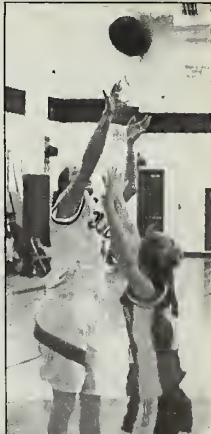
The Lady Wolves returned to campus on Tuesday, Feb. 5 to take on Rock Valley. They found the home court to be no kinder than the road, falling to The Lady Golden Eagles 68-35. Four players scoring in double digits led Rock Valley.

The results were no better against Oakton Community

College. After being tied at the half JJC was outscored 28-17 in the second half, losing 46-35. Freshman Jamece Price stepped it up for the Wolves, leading all scorers with 10 points.

The Feb. 12 game brought yet another loss to JJC's women's team, as they were defeated by Triton 64-45. Price again led JJC in scoring with 10 points. Sophomore Carly Gura contributed 9 points in the losing effort. The defeat brings the Lady Wolves record to 1-24 overall and 0-8 in the NAC.

JJC's ladies continue to see strong play from Pickering, Fox, Dell'Aquila, Price, Callagaris, and Danielle Mumm, all freshman players. Hopes will be high for a tough team in the 02-03 season. Meanwhile, get out and support the ladies at the last home contest on Saturday, Feb. 23 against Illinois Valley Community College.



Chris Callagaris shoots two for the ladies at a home game for the Wolves.

Photos courtesy of the Athletics Department

Athletes of the issue

Robert Balkcom



Robert Balkcom, a recent graduate of Romeoville High School has made a name for himself out on the court recently.

At 6-2, this freshman guard has been an asset to the Wolves. In a game against Olive-Harvey on Saturday, Balkcom ended with 12 points. He pulled down 8 boards and 13 points in a Feb. 9 game against St. Xavier, and 21 points and 8 rebounds against Triton on Feb. 12, shooting 9 for 16 from the field.

The next home game for the Wolves is on Feb. 23 at JJC at 3 p.m. against Illinois Valley Community College.

Jamece Price



Freshman Jamece Price has been a leader for the Lady Wolves.

A 5-5, guard and graduate of Joliet Township High School, Jamece has done her share to try and bring the Lady Wolves out of their season-long lull.

She led the team in points in a Feb. 9 matchup against St. Xavier University, and later had 3 steals and another 10 points in a Feb. 12 game against Triton College.

The Lady Wolves play a Feb. 23 home game against Illinois Valley Community College at 1 p.m.



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Inside

Dear Mandy



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Question of the issue:
What is the worst
pick-up line you've
ever heard?

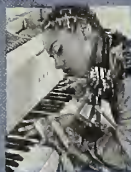
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**JJC expands with
Morris campus**



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**2002 Grammy
Awards**



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**Pow wow dances onto
campus**



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**Mens basketball team
falls in Region IV
Championship**

Page 8

Student arrested, charged in incident that leaves girl hurt, window shattered

by Lisa Widlowski

A JJC student has been charged with assault and possession of marijuana in connection with an incident that took place in the F Concourse on Wednesday, Feb. 20. The incident left a female student injured and a glass panel next to the F Concourse entrance shattered.

Isaiah Greenlaw has been charged with assault and drug possession, according to JJC Police Chief Stephen Bennett. In addition to the legal charges, he will also face a college hearing for the incident. According to Bennett, the drugs were found on Greenlaw when he was checked for weapons after the arrest.

The other student involved, Dellanise Wright, received five stitches in her hand after going through the glass panel buttocks first.

According to Bennett, Greenlaw and Wright gave conflicting stories about the incident. Greenlaw claimed Wright was messing with his hair or head covering and he threw up his arm to brush her away. Greenlaw said their arms got tangled and Wright stumbled, buttocks first, into the glass panel.

Wright, on the other hand, said Greenlaw picked her up by her shoulders and threw her, resulting in her crashing through the panel and cutting her hand.

Bennett said officers routinely check suspects for weapons during an arrest, for their own and the public's safety. During this search, 11 bags of marijuana were found on Greenlaw, Bennett said. As a result, Greenlaw will face an



Plywood covers the broken glass panel that was shattered during an incident on Feb. 20. The door and glass panel are located near the F Concourse entrance.

Photo by Scott Bessler

in-school judicial review board and the public court system.

Bennett said that at JJC Greenlaw could face anything from community service to expulsion. In court he may face fines or possibly even jail time for drug possession.

As the glass panel shattered, a large crowd gathered as a result of the loud noise. The first officer to hear the commotion described

the breaking of the glass as an explosion. Since it happened at 11:10 a.m., there were many people on campus. But, although many people gathered when they heard the sound, they did not actually witness the incident. The only witness was a girlfriend of Wright.

On Thursday, Feb. 28, another incident occurred outside the Student Services offices, causing

a disruption on the C and D Concourses. Two male students were involved in a fight. Although there were no arrests made, the two students will face a review board, which is representative of their teachers, staff and peers. According to police, it is likely the two male students will have to pay for repairs to a new copy machine, which was damaged during the fight.

Bennett acknowledged that crime has increased this semester on campus, but he still believes most students feel comfortable on campus.

"The average student feels safe," said Bennett.

So far this semester, 16 people have been arrested for various crimes, Bennett said. Most of these arrests were a result of theft, assault or traffic violations.

An outside agency, LEMAP, is currently evaluating campus security and the campus grounds (See related story on this page). They are looking at a variety of issues such as lighting on campus and in the parking lots and whether or not campus officers should carry weapons. According to Bennett, equipping police with mace or pepper spray is a definite possibility right now.

Bennett said the study is not related to specific recent incidents. Student Services is also finalizing a new student code of conduct which is in the process of being approved.

LEMAP safety audit evaluates campus security

by Carrie Roderick

The Joliet Junior College board of trustees, in support of the president's cabinet, agreed to conduct a campus-wide safety and security audit. Under the auspices of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) Loaned Executive Management Assistance Program (LEMAP) a review was conducted on Feb. 3, 2002, at JJC for a total of four hours.

LEMAP conducted a site visit to gather knowledge for an in-depth evaluation of the department of public safety. The LEMAP team members who assisted in the audit were representatives of Lakeland Community College, Cleveland, Ohio, the San Diego Community College district, and the San Clair Community College, Dayton, Ohio.

The LEMAP team researched the physical layout of Main, City Center, and North campuses and conducted interviews over approximately three days with people involved with the college. In addition, meetings were held with local law enforcement leadership.

According to Dr. Alan Hardersen, vice president for student services, the LEMAP team focused on

21 different areas. The areas included the following: communications and dispatching, parking enforcement, crime prevention, property and evidence, and policing the college. During the evaluation of school property the LEMAP team looked over lighting, floor plans and hidden areas on campus grounds.

The LEMAP team took into consideration the amount of training and experience security officers should have. The teams also reviewed whether the department should keep certain responsibilities internal, or delegate them to a second party. The team also addressed if officers should be able to carry weapons. The weapons could range from mace to stun guns to firearms.

A lengthy formal report is expected within the next two weeks with the results of the audit. The College of DuPage's recent audit contained over 130 recommendations for school improvement. JJC anticipates about the same amount.

"The report will be taken to the board of trustees who will implement any recommendations that are doable," Hardersen said. The board will draw up a team to help the school progress in achieving the changes suggested by the audit.

Our View

A good voter is an informed voter

Wherever you go in the United States, chances are you will find people who have something to say about the government today, whether it is criticism or praise.

On Tuesday, March 19, citizens will get the chance to exercise their right to vote in the Illinois primary election. Citizens will have the opportunity to choose the Democratic, Republican and Libertarian candidates, who will then run for offices such as governor, attorney general, senator and others in the November election.

This all leads to one very simple question: Why should a person vote?

Elected officials are sup-

posed to represent the will of the people. When you vote, you are choosing the people who will be making decisions on issues such as gun control, abortion, equal rights and health care. These are issues that affect all people. While it is impossible to represent the will of the entire population, the more involved you are in an election, the more likely your views will be addressed and represented.

Not only should you vote, but you should also be informed voters. Voting will be of no use to you, unless you know whom you are voting for. You should research the candidates, and then choose the person you feel best represents your needs.

If you don't believe that any candidate supports what you believe in, become more involved. The only way the government will change is if you make an effort to change it. One person may not have the power to tip an entire election, but there is power in numbers.

To get more information about the candidates running for election, please visit <http://www.vote-smart.org>. The voting polls will be open from 6 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19. And remember, if you think that your vote doesn't count, look to the thousands of other people who think differently, because they will be the ones making the decisions that affect your life.

Letter to the editor

Reader applauds JJC Vagina Monologues

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all participants in the production of the Vagina Monologues. Nicki Blowers of the fine arts department did an excellent job in directing a fantastic group of talented women. Anissa Jones, student of student activities, and director Lavon Pettis should be commended for their hard work in bringing the production to campus, as well as performing actual roles during the Monologues.

All women who participated in this annual global event should be recognized for their desire to bring the subject of violence against women to the forefront in

a very courageous way. Violence against women is an epidemic that needs continued attention and education. It also took great courage and conviction to perform this often controversial production. I applaud each and every one who took the risk and sought involvement with the Monologues throughout the world, and I'm especially proud that special women, as well as men, from JJC were among this noteworthy group.

Roxane M. Geraci
Director of Community
Relations at Joliet Junior
College

Letter Policy

The *Blazer* encourages participation from readers through letters. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the *Blazer* office at H-1015B.

Blazer

Phone number:
280-2313

E-mail: blazer@jjc.cc.il.us

Web address

www.jjc.cc.il.us/blazer

Winners for the Vagina Monologues book from Project Achieve

Tawana Hughes
Patricia Dietz
Zachary Skeen
Janice Russom
Sherry Marie Weber
Shelly Phillips-Haaha
Colleen Robbins
Krista Adams

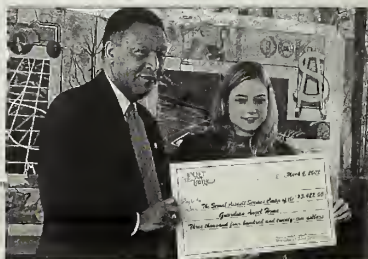


Photo by Jessica Harvey

President J.D. Ross presents a check to Jennifer Prochut from The Sexual Assault Services of the Guardian Angel Home for \$3,422 on Monday, March 4, on JJC main campus.

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JJC expands campus location offerings

by Scott Bessler

Joliet Junior College is continuing its service to the community by expanding to one more campus location. A new Morris facility was opened this past semester to provide students with both credit and non-credit JJC courses.

The newly added Grundy County Facility, located at 1715 North Division Street in Morris, in the Morris Archway Plaza, officially opened for classes in August 2001. The campus, a 1,036 square-foot facility, houses a traditional 16-student classroom, as well as a state-of-the-art 12-student computer lab.

The facility currently offers approximately 12 different credit courses. The course offerings currently include classes such as math, speech, history and medical coding. One-day, non-credit computer courses in Excel, Word and Access are also being offered at the facility.

"The classes are chosen based upon what the community wants," said Ann Parrish, who has the responsibility of programming for courses at the facility and is the advising contract training manager for JJC. Parrish is also working with local businesses to see what training opportunities they would like to see provided.

The facility currently has approximately 120 students enrolled in credit courses. The facility relies heavily upon adjunct faculty members to teach the classes.

"Right now, it is difficult to pluck full-time faculty members to teach at the Morris facility," said Parrish.

In addition to the two classrooms at the Grundy County Facility, there is a resource room shared with Grundy County Workforce Services. The resource room, open to all community residents, has the necessary tools to assist anyone interested in a career change or locating employ-

ment. Resources at this facility include resume software, word processing applications, Internet access for job seekers, as well as JJC financial aid, admission, degree requirement and course offering information, according to Parrish.

The campus currently caters to an expanded market, including adults who are looking at changing careers, as well as high school students who wish to earn college credit. "The hope is to be able to provide a wide variety of general education classes," said Parrish.

The Grundy County Facility resource room hours for the Spring 2002 semester are Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Fridays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on the Joliet Junior College Grundy County Facility, or to request a course to be offered at this location contact Ann Parrish at 815-942-1552.

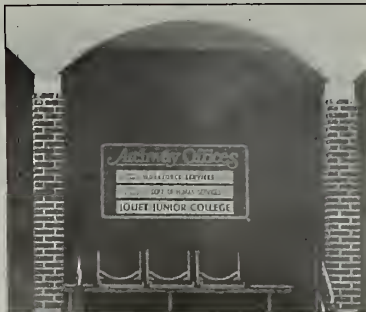


Photo by Kevin Balle
The recently opened Grundy County Facility in Morris offers students an additional location to take classes. The two-classroom complex, located in the Archway Plaza, plans to expand its course offerings in the near future to better cater to local students and the surrounding business community.

Question of the Issue: What is the worst pick-up line you've ever heard?



Sharon Williams

"My car broke down. Can I get a ride from you and your number? Maybe we can go out sometime?"



George Romaro

"Somebody call God because there's an angel missing."



Matt Patterson

"How would you like your eggs in the morning, hard boiled, scrambled or fertilized?"



Lavan Pettis

"Girl, I'll drink your bath water."



Michelle Smith

"You must be wearing space pants because your ass is out of this world."



Will Cavanaugh

"Girl, you must be tired because you've been running through my head all day."



John Kneiss

"Is that a mirror in your pocket because I can see myself with you."



Larry Feldmeier

"Did it hurt when you fell from heaven?"

Photos and copy by Jessica Harvey



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2002 Grammy Awards: Newcomer holds the 'Keys' to success

by Molly McKeon

On Wednesday Feb. 27, the 44th Annual Grammy Awards, or "the biggest night in music" as some have come to call it, were held at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Needless to say it was a major star-studded event filled with lots of surprises, bad fashion sense and of course, great music.

Twenty-year-old R&B newcomer Alicia Keys walked away a big winner, taking home five out of the six Grammy awards she was nominated for, including "Best R&B Album," "Song of the Year" for "Fallen" and the prestigious "Best New Artist" award, to name a few. Keys also contributed an amazing live performance and surprised many with her large number of wins considering she's only been on the music scene for a short eight months.

U2, a band now considered veterans in the music industry,

was also a big winner, taking home four out of the eight awards they were nominated for. "Record of the Year," "Best Pop performance by a Duo or Group," and



Alicia Keys

"Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group" were several of

the awards the band claimed.

Sure, the Grammys are a prestigious award show, but the winners haven't always reflected what is popular in music now. Take for instance this year's winner for "Best Album." The soundtrack for the movie "Dh Brother, Where Oh Thou?" wasn't exactly number one on everyone's must have list, yet it took home one of the biggest awards, plus a handful of others.

Other award winners included "Lady Marmalade" for "Best Pop Collaboration," and Outkast's "Stankonia" for "Best Rap Album." Sade won for "Best Pop Album," Train's "Drops of Jupiter" won for "Best Rock Song" and other popular artists like Linkin Park, Eve and Gwen Stefani also picked up awards.

The Grammys are known for their outstanding live performances and once again they came through this year with a long list

of today's hottest performers. The Ladies of Moulin Rouge, Christina Aguilera, Pink, Mya and Little Kim put on an amazing performance of "Lady Marmalade," along with surprise guest and legend, Patti LaBelle. Dukastru strutted their stuff to "Ms. Jackson" while Mary J. Blige, Bob Dylan, NSYNC, Dave Matthews Band and India Arie

contributed with their popular hits. Country singer Alan Jackson sang a moving tribute dedicated to September 11 called "Where Were You When the World Stopped Turning."

The Grammys were founded in 1957 through the Recording Academy and honor artistic achievement without regard to album sales or chart position.

News Briefs

Campus Police: The Rape Aggressions Defense Systems will be holding a 12-hour course in self-defense tactics to prevent sexual assault this month. The classes are open to women ages 16 and over. Classes are offered on three consecutive days for four hours each class. Classes are Tuesday March 12, Wednesday March 13 and Thursday March 14 from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. in C2018. There is a one-time fee of \$25 per person. Classes are limited to 10 people per class. For further information or to make reservations for a class contact Officer Joe Sikora at 280-2234.

Phi Theta Kappa: There is a general meeting scheduled on Thursday, March 21 at 5 p.m. in the middle of the bridge.

Office of Admissions and Student Recruitment: Governors State University will be holding a Spring Open House on March 16 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. For further information or to RSVP contact the Governors State University admissions office at (708)534-4490.

Multicultural Transfer Center: There will be an Adult Learners Expo on Tuesday, March 26 from 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. in the T-Building Concourse. This expo provides an opportunity for adult students to gather information from over 25 area colleges. For further information contact Angie Kaysen-Luzbetak at 280-2449.

The Multicultural Transfer Center will also be holding three Transfer Center Lunch and Learns with North Central College on Tuesday, March 12, Governors State University on Monday, March 18 and University of St. Francis on Thursday, March 26. All of the Lunch and Learns will take place in J-0006 from 11 a.m.-noon. This event is open to any JJC student who is considering transferring to a senior college. The universities will discuss topics such as financial aid and scholarships, and answer questions that students may have. Lunch will be provided. For further information contact Angie Kaysen-Luzbetak at 280-2449.

Native American Club: The Native American Club along with the Social Behavioral Sciences Department and the Women's College will be hosting

a free lecture entitled "Being aware: Writing Indian A Lakota voice in the feminine dialect," with Delphine Red Shirt on Friday, March 8 from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. A luncheon in room J-0006 will follow the lecture. For further information contact Fred Harris at 280-2566.

The Native American Club along with The American Indian Center of Chicago will host the 6th annual Woodland Reunion Traditional Pow Wow on Saturday, March 9 from noon-9 p.m. at the JJC main campus. Admission to this event will be \$5 for adults; \$2 for elders, students and children; free for children under the age of six. To volunteer or for further information contact Fred Harris at 280-2566.

Women's College: On Friday, March 15 the Women's College will be hosting Empowerment '02 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the JJC main campus. Lauren Sugarman, President of Chicago Woman in Trades will be the guest speaker from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. There will be a panel discussion from 11 a.m.-noon in J-0006 and lunch will follow the discussion. For further information call Pam Condon at 280-2626 or Anissa Jones at 280-2755.

JJC Greenhouse: The JJC greenhouse is having a bulb sale. Hyacinth, daffodils, grape hyacinth are \$5 for 6" bulbs and \$7 for 8" bulbs. The greenhouse is open 8 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. For further information contact the greenhouse at 280-2511.

Local Colleges attend the 2002 campus alcohol and traffic safety (CATS) conference: Bethany Bierman, Beth Reyes, Diannaha Tielbur, and Pam Dilday attended the tenth annual statewide Campus Alcohol and Traffic Safety Conference held in Springfield on Feb. 25 and 26. Approximately 300 Illinois colleges and university faculty, administrators, staff, students, and community providers gathered in Springfield to learn about the latest trends and technologies in prevention of problems related to alcohol, drugs, and traffic safety issues. Workshops covering a variety of topics impacting the health and safety of college student were presented during the two-day event.

Paul Vallas visits JJC on campaign trail

by Jessica Harvey

On Tues., Feb. 26, Paul Vallas, one of three democratic candidates for governor of Illinois, came to speak to students and the public at JJC.

Vallas gave a brief history of his past education and job experiences, talked about issues he wanted to tackle if he becomes governor and answered questions from the public.

"If elected, the first thing I will do is reauthorize the budget," said Vallas.

Vallas talked about the four issues that he is focusing on for this campaign after he brings the budget under control.

His first concern is education and how schools need predictability on their budgets every year.

He also wants to provide healthcare for the elderly and working poor, improve public safety and spur economic development.

Vallas answered questions from the public on issues such as prescription drugs for seniors, the death penalty, school vouchers, Illinois toll roads and airport expansion.

Vallas is being opposed by Democratic candidates Rod Blagojevich and Roland Burris in the primary election. Running in the Republican Primary election are Jim Ryan, Patrick O'Malley and Corinne Wood.

If anyone would like more information on the Paul Vallas campaign, they can visit his website at:

<http://www.paulvallas.com>



photo by Jessica Harvey
Democratic candidate for governor, Paul Vallas, speaks at JJC in February

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JJC's Native-American Club hosts Pow Wow

by Jessica Harvey

Thousands of people are expected to visit Joliet Junior College this weekend to experience the many traditions, foods, artwork, music and customs of the Native American people.

On Saturday, March 9 the JJC Native American Club, along with the American Indian Center of Chicago will host the 6th annual Woodland Reunion Traditional Pow Wow from noon to 9 p.m. at the JJC main campus.

"We have the facilities at JJC to host a Pow Wow, and the college is very interested in having cultural events on campus," said media services head and Native American Club advisor, Fred Harris.

There are 35-40 vendors expected to have booths at the pow wow. Beads, artwork, jewelry, drums, clothing and blankets are some of the items that will be for sale.

"There will be tribes from all over the United States at the Pow Wow," said Harris.

Native Americans from tribes such as the Navajo, Ojibwa, Potawatomi and Menominee will attend this event.

There will be two grand entries during the day. They will be at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. in the gymnasium. During the grand entry, dancers from different tribes enter the pow wow dressed in traditional Native American clothing from their specific tribe,



Little girl gets prepared for a past Pow Wow ceremony, held at JJC's main campus

Photos submitted by Fred Harris



Dancers from different tribes perform at a previous Pow Wow ceremony, held at JJC's main campus. Photo by Fred Harris

and they partake in intertribal dancing.

People attending the Pow Wow will also have the chance to hear story telling and songs from Larry "Black Morning Star" Lockwood of the North Cheyenne

tribe. He will hold his story telling and song from 3 p.m.-4 p.m. on the bridge.

After the story telling, people can listen to music performed by contemporary Native American musicians from 4 p.m.-5 p.m.

People who attend this event will also have a chance to try some traditional Native American food such as fried bread, Indian tacos and corn soup. The cafeteria will be open from noon-6 p.m., and regular food items will also be available for purchase.

"The pow wow provides a great opportunity for students and members of the community to become aware of the true Native American culture, as opposed to the stereotypical Native Americans," says Native American Club president, Amada Rosas.

Rosa would also like people to know that if they volunteer to sit at a table to sell admission tickets for two hours, they will receive free admission, one meal ticket, and a free T-shirt, designed by Larry "Black Morning Star" Lockwood.

Another event The Native American Club along with the Social Behavioral Sciences Department and the Women's College will be hosting is a free lecture entitled "Being aware: Writing Indian: A Lakota voice in the feminine dialect," with Delphine Red Shirt on Friday, March 8 from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. A luncheon in room J-0006 will follow the lecture.

Red Shirt is an enrolled member of the Ojibwa Sioux Tribe, and she is currently teaching American studies as an adjunct professor at Yale University. She is also the author of "Bead on an Antihill: A Lakota Childhood," and a new book entitled "Turtle Lung Woman's Granddaughter." Red shirt writes books dealing with "contemporary native people." She will also be selling and signing her books at the pow wow.

Admission to the pow wow will be \$5 for adults; \$2 for elders, students and children; free for children under the age of six.

To volunteer or for further information please contact Fred Harris at 280-2566.

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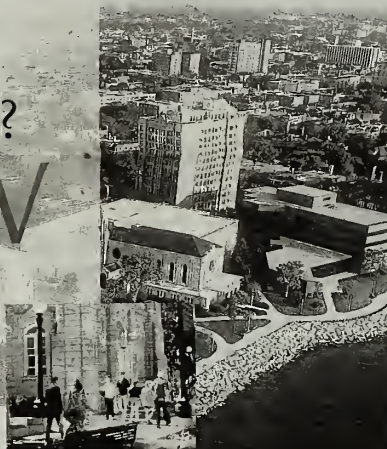
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CD Ratings

- **** Skip class and go buy it
 *** Buy it at later date
 ** Find someone who has it and copy it
 * Find someone who has it and laugh

Queen of the Damned Soundtrack
 Various Artists
 *** 1/2

On rare occasions, a soundtrack is released that turns out to be much better than the movie. This is one of those times.

The first five songs were written by Jonathan Davis, the singing voice of the main character in the movie and lead singer of Korn. However, due to contractual restraints, Davis was unable to sing on the CD.

To solve this problem, Davis recruited Wayne Static of Static-X, David Draiman of Disturbed, Chester Bennington, the singer of Linkin Park, Marilyn Manson, and Jay Gordon of Orgy. If this CD was only five songs long, it

A 'Damned' good cd

by Jason Baloun

would be worth getting. But, luckily for us, the disc also includes previously released material by Papa Roach, Deftones, Godhead and others.

The best song on here is probably "Redeemer," written by Jonathan Davis and performed by Marilyn Manson. It's kind of creepy, but Manson has a certain desperation/pain in his voice.

The only problem with this CD is track number 13, "Excess" by Tricky. It's a mind song that doesn't have any place on this soundtrack. The other 12 tracks are worth every penny.



Don't Worry About Me
 Joey Ramone
 * 1/2

Punk music is not my favorite, but like a lot of people,

hearing that Joey Ramone died got me interested in hearing his music. The most recent, and from Ramone runs 11 tracks and plays for about 35 minutes.

There aren't really any songs on here that you're going to want to listen to over and over again, and a few like "Mr. Punchy" and "Maria Bartiromo" are so annoying that you may be tempted to throw your new CD out the window of a moving semi-truck.

For those few people around who still like punk music, you'll probably say you like it, and more power to you. Anyone who isn't sure if they'll like it or not, I can tell you that you probably won't. Ramone's voice is an acquired taste, and the music leaves much to be desired.

A 'Damned' bad movie

by Lauren Madison

"Queen of the Damned," the long awaited sequel to "Interview with a Vampire," was released Feb. 22.

I enjoyed the book. Seeing that Anne Rice had also written the screenplay, I figured I couldn't go wrong with this flick.

That was my first mistake.

It begins in a cemetery with Lestat (Stuart Townsend) waking up from many years' rest. Upon waking, Lestat joins a modern day "Goth" band and begins spilling secrets about vampire life. All vampires are setting out to destroy Lestat at his one and only concert at Death Valley. Meanwhile, Akasha (Aaliya) the queen of all vampires, has begun to destroy the vampire youth in order to save Lestat.

I do not know how to begin my complaints about this movie. The acting—the visual effects, particularly the vampires bursting into flames, even the plot were all horrible. Queen of the Damned was a B movie trying to win an Oscar.

I wasted an hour and 55 minutes of my time on this movie. I will never get that time back. I would suggest that you don't waste yours.



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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21 - April 19)
 You'll hear about a study (bogus) that says subliminal messages (send money) are without effect (cash preferred). I'll let you know (fat chance) what MY research shows (unmarked bills) on the matter.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)
 Before jumping on the bandwagon, make sure you can play an instrument.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
 Feel good about yourself this week! Self-examinations are important!

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)
 A Capricorn will play a prominent role this week. Not in YOUR life, but in SOMEONE'S.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)
 These letters could play an important role in your life this week: P. M. S.

Virgo (August 23 - Sept. 22)
 When in doubt, punt. Unless you think an end-run will work.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
 Try something new this week! Then tell me if it was any good before I waste MY time trying it.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
 Your dream of being a mime will have to be put on hold when you can't find your way out of the box...

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
 Finally, the day will arrive that you've been waiting for — Thursday!

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
 Before you start a new venture, first make sure you clear it with your parole officer.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
 Someone will be quick to offer you bad news. Take it with a grain of salt... and a margarita, or two.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)
 You'll be overwhelmed by love this week. Well, actually Love-BUGS.

Dear Mandy

Readers ask
Mandy questions
pertaining to
dating, style, and
confidentiality.

Dear Mandy,

My friend and I have known each other for a long time. She really gets on my nerves. I can't feel close to her anymore because everything always has to be about her. She is selfish and she hurts other people's feelings by things she says and doesn't even realize it. I care about her but I can't deal with the way she is acting. I feel that the way she acts is due to her insecurities.

Should I tell her the truth and risk ending a friendship or just distance myself from her and hope one day she gets a clue? Thanks!

Searching for the Truth

Dear Searching for the Truth,

Very tough situation! But have no worries... a solution isn't far off. It sounds to me like your friend is "craving the spotlight" and will do anything. This includes stepping on anyone to have it, including you! I understand that you don't want to confront her... but you should let her walk all over you either!

Sit down... just the two of you. Tell her exactly how you feel. Don't hold back! A good friend, a true friend will see that she is hurting you and try to make a change. On the chance she doesn't listen, or refuses to change then put loads of distance between the two of you.

Nobody needs friends who are uncaring and unwilling to compromise!

Dear Mandy,

There is this girl who just all around gives me a warm feeling in my stomach and just makes me smile with the sound of her name. I get very nervous and shy whenever she comes around. What should I do?

Confused and Mixed Up

Dear Confused and Mixed Up,

Hmm... Sounds like a crush to me! I want to ask a couple of questions... How well do you know her? Do you two ever talk or hang out?

If you know her pretty well and the two of you hang out on occasion... RELAX! She obviously likes you for a friend and you just need to take it from there! Just take your time and be yourself.

However, if you two don't really know each other, then it's time you introduced yourself. If it's easier, have a friend do it for you. Take things slow... study together, shoot some pool just be friends with her. The rest will come in time.

Just remember to breathe and it's o.k. to be shy... a lot of girls like that!

Monster's Ball earns Berry nomination

by Matt Sheehan

In *Monster's Ball*, Hank Growtowski, played by Billy Bob Thornton, is a second-generation racist prison guard who spends most of his time eating chocolate ice cream with a plastic spoon and taking care of his racist dad. Antagonizing Hank is his passive and fellow prison guard son, Sonny.

At the prison that Hank and Sonny work at, condemned black man Lawrence Musgrove, played by Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, is set to die. Meanwhile, his soon-to-be widowed wife Leticia, played by Halle Berry, and overweight son Tyrrell are at the bottom of the barrel—she is going to be evicted, and he can't stop his sugar and fatty food cravings. Hank and Sonny have the "honor" of conducting the execution.

Hank refuses constant pleas by Lawrence to call home, therefore leaving his son feeling abandoned, but Leticia does not seem all that worried. Afterwards they come together for an unlikely friendship that turns into a passionate, erotic encounters to a forbidding romance.

Leticia is a troubled, complicated character that is portrayed beautifully by the beautiful and talented Berry. Leticia constantly bombards her son with verbal abuse about his weight and beats him when he is caught with candy or other sweets. Berry comes off as a stern, unloving mother who, in fact, is caring and sensitive.

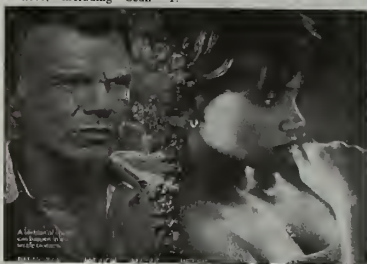
Yes, there is heavy sex and nudity in this film; also, Halle Berry bares it all in a graphic,

provocative sex scene. However, it is essential to the character and storyline. Go see it and you'll see why it is.

I do not think that it is a great film, but it has great performances, including Sean P.

Diddy's Combs' short-lived role and, of course, Halle Berry's role, for which she has earned a Best Actress Oscar nomination. ***

Visit Matt's movies at: www.geocities.com/mjs914jc/



Billy Bob Thornton and Halle Berry star in *Monster's Ball*.

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Men's basketball team falls in tight title game

by Scott Bessler

The JJC Wolves men's basketball team fought hard to try and snap their losing streak in a championship game Saturday, but was unable to follow through.

"We had our chances..."

-Coach Joe Kuhn

The Wolves (19-13) were looking for their first national tournament appearance since 1998, but fell to DuPage in a championship game at Rock Valley College. The Wolves, playing in their fourth Region IV championship game in five years, could not overcome their poor shooting from the field. The team, who shot 30.9 percent from

the field, fell to DuPage 68-60.

Gordon Morgan contributed 21 points, including four from downtown.

"We had our chances, and that's all you can ask, I guess," said JJC Wolves coach Joe Kuhn.

The team went into this game on a string of three victories. On Friday, Morgan again led the Wolves with 25 points in a game against Rock Valley College. JJC clinched the 86-81 victory in a late-game battle. Freshman guard Trent Ellis finished the game with 19 points, four of which were from three-point range.

Morgan, along with Eddie Small, who contributed 10 points and led rebounders with 10 boards in the championship game, were named to the all-tournament team.

Lady Wolves finish season, look to a brighter future with returning players

by Kristin Hulva

On Feb. 26, the ladies ended their season with a 71-46 loss to Rock Valley in the quarterfinal round of the Region IV tournament. The Wolves were led in scoring by freshman Ashley Fox with 10 points. Mumm contributed 9 while freshman Carrie Pickering and Dell'Aquila each had 8 points. The team finished a disappointing season 2-28.

Look for the team to come on strong next year with a strong core of young players back in the mix.

Prior to the season finale, the Lady Wolves took their show on the road on Feb. 16 to take on Olive-Harvey College. The ladies received some veteran leadership from Carly Gura, who

recorded a career high 17 points in the 73-47 loss.

The ladies got a big confidence boost heading into the Region IV Tournament with a 55-54 win over Malcolm X College. Down 34-29 at halftime, the team rallied for the one point victory. The Lady Wolves were led by Danielle Mumm's (freshman, Minooka) 20 points and Chris

Callagaris's (freshman, Morris) 14. Annumerie Dell'Aquila (freshman, Reed-Custer) also chipped in 14 points and had a team high 10 rebounds.

The ladies team had some of that confidence dashed as they fell in consecutive contests to Kishwaukee College and in their final home contest to Illinois Valley Community College.

Athletes of the issue



Joel House



Carly Gura

JJC's experience on the court comes from sophomore Joel House. This 5-9 guard, a graduate of Joliet Township High School, brings his skills to the sport and has been an asset to the Wolves.

In a game Friday against Rock Valley College, House contributed 14 points to aid in the Wolves 86-81 victory.

JJC sophomore Carly Gura has recently made a name for herself on the court. A Plainfield graduate, this 5-7 forward has worked her hardest to help the women through a difficult season.

On Feb. 16, Gura contributed a career high 17 points in a match-up against Olive-Harvey College.

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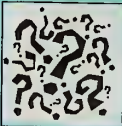
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Empowerment Conference: Speakers discuss women's roles in today's workforce

by Jessica Harvey

Keynote speaker Lauren Sugarman and panel presenters discussed the topic of women in non-traditional jobs on Friday, March 15, when the 5th annual Empowerment Conference was held at Joliet Junior College's Main Campus.

"I can't think of a better way for women to gain empowerment in the world than to have access to high wages, high skills and the tools that can really transform their lives, their communities, their housing, their shelter and their schools," said Lauren Sugarman, president of Chicago Women in Trades.

Sugarman talked briefly about her experiences in the work force as an elevator constructor for Westinghouse Elevator Company. For five years, she worked construction, repair and maintenance of escalators and elevators at the Sears Tower and other places throughout the Chicago area.

Sugarman also talked extensively about the experiences of other women in non-traditional job settings. She focused on women construction workers who built their own homes in South America and South Africa, bringing to light a global perspective on the topic.

Sugarman wanted people to know of the benefit women receive from working in construction and manufacturing jobs. Women learn to be proud of their accomplishments, gain higher self-esteem and know what it's like to own something they have also made.

"When something breaks, I can fix it. I don't have to be dependent, like other South African women, on men for fixing things, for transportation or a house," said Lindy, an electrician in Duran South Africa.

After Sugarman gave her lecture, there was a brief intermission. The audience then heard from a panel of six people of various jobs and backgrounds.

First, Dennis Haynes, the dean of Occupational Programs and Workforce Preparation at JJC, spoke about the lack of women in non-traditional jobs. He also talked about how encouraging women to participate in non-traditional jobs was not enough. He felt that people needed to provide the tools and support for women to accomplish these jobs.

Next, Geni Harston, member of the International Brotherhood

of Electrical Workers, Local Union 134, spoke about her experiences as an electrician. An occupation where men outnumber women by nearly 20 to one, Harston explained that when she was going to school, she was encouraged to become a nurse because it was seen to be a more practical career for a woman. However, in 1981, she applied for the electrical apprenticeship and was accepted into the program in 1985.

Michael McGreal, chef and department chair for Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management at JJC, spoke after Harston. McGreal talked about the increase of female chefs entering the culinary arts program in recent years. He also talked about the fact that cooking for wages was a predominately male occupation, even though women were expected to cook at home for their families, without pay.

Rhonda Lorenz, a litigation attorney in the Chicago area, talked about her experiences as an attorney and running her own business. Lorenz started her own business as an independent contractor in March of last year. She works at several different law firms, hiring herself out on an hourly basis based on a schedule that she sets herself.

"Know who you are, which is a big journey, and to go and not be afraid to be it," said Lorenz of the most empowering thing that she's learned and is still learning.

After Lorenz, Michelle Story,



Photo courtesy of Media Services held on March 15 at Main Campus.

a full time instructor in the Business Department at JJC, spoke about her experiences as Director of Parks and Planning for the Lockport Township Park District. She also talked about how she felt women had to often work twice as hard to gain the respect that men do.

Finally, Maria Anna Rafac, professor and advisor for the JJC Architecture, Engineering and Construction Programs, spoke

about her non-traditional upbringing. She told the audience how she was raised to believe that she could do anything. When she was young not only did she roof with her father, but she also learned how to knit with her mother.

"Respect is not given, it's earned. And if you respect who you are, people cannot help but respect who you are as well," said Rafac.



Photo courtesy of Media Services This was part of the speaking panel for the empowerment conference event. Speakers stressed that women must often work much harder than men for the same level of respect.

Our View

JJC Spring Break schedule was created with good intentions; Now outdated and inconvenient.

From the many questions and complaints from JJC students about the late spring break, the *Blazer* decided to do a little "investigative reporting" to find out why our spring break doesn't fall during the middle of the semester like other state colleges, such as Illinois State University.

Upon visiting the administrative assistant to vice president for academic services, the *Blazer* found that, in the past, the reasoning behind the late spring break was that the parents in the JJC district area wanted the break to coincide with local grade schools so a family could enjoy spending their break together.

The *Blazer* can understand this reasoning and agrees with it because most of us having younger brothers or sisters in area grade schools, junior highs or high schools. Now that our spring break doesn't coincide with area

schools, we at the *Blazer* feel that the break should occur during the middle of the semester.

The late time spring break actually fell during the middle of the semester was in 1998. From talking to administrative sources, we found that the plan is to keep moving it closer and closer to the middle of the semester in future years. However, a lot of other events have to be taken into consideration when deciding the next academic calendar.

The *Blazer* did obtain information from a May 1999 meeting, which was already discussing the 2002 spring calendar. At that meeting in '99, it was decided that "spring recess begins the Friday before Easter and continues through the following week. When there are less than three weeks between Easter and the beginning of final exams, the spring break calendar is moved

back to have three full weeks of instruction between spring break and the beginning of final exam week."

In 1999, there was documentation showing a survey that had been passed around to the faculty asking when they would prefer the upcoming spring breaks be taken, but there was no documentation showing that the students had been questioned or their opinion taken into consideration. Students are the ones that work hard on their homework every night, trying to maintain good grades, but at the same time leading to more stress in our lives.

Administrators and others involved in the decision on the academic calendar should be concerned with making sure students are surveyed. They should make sure that we, as students, feel that our opinion counts when deciding the upcoming calendar years.

Letter to the editor

Reader offers thoughts on campus security

I read your article regarding the LEMAP safety audit with interest. As I read, I noticed where it said that the Board of Trustees is considering allowing our police department to carry weapons "that range from mace, to stun guns, to firearms." I was a student here back in 1979 through 1981, and during that time the decision was made to prohibit our police officers from carrying weapons.

I found that decision hard to understand back then, as I do now. EVERY police department in the country carries all those weapons on their belts. Now hopefully they should never need to use those weapons, especially firearms. However, the real world is not so accommodating. Police officers today face criminals who carry all sorts of weapons, including fully automatic assault weapons. They obtain these weapons with no regard for the law whatsoever. Couple that with the drugs they may be using, and you have a situation that can get an officer killed in less than a heart beat.

I have always felt safe here

at JJC, and personally feel that our police officers do a fine job, especially in light of the fact that they have only a baton for their protection. Suppose (Heaven forbid!) some one were to come in here high on Crack or Methamphetamine, and that person had an Uz. What would our police officers be able to do in that situation? Also, given the fact that Joliet is ridden with gangs, illegal drugs and guns, is it not possible that the above scenario could play out in our life? Then there is the ever present possibility of a terrorist attack.

Please don't get me wrong. I am not predicting anything like that is going to happen, but if it did, our officers are at an unfair disadvantage. So I hope when our board of trustees comes to a decision, they will give our officers an even break by reallowing them to carry firearms. All other law enforcement officers have that advantage. Why should our officers have it?

Michael D. O'Brien
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Letter Policy

The *Blazer* encourages participation from readers through letters.

Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the *Blazer* office at H-1015B.

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Culinary arts students gain real life experience

by David Ashby

Most of the academic departments at Joliet Junior College give their students opportunities

to integrate real-world job experience into their programs of study. In the beginning of this semester, the Culinary Arts Department started one of these programs

entitled the Chef's Table.

The Chef's Table is controlled entirely by second year Culinary Arts students. The prospective chefs experience every aspect of running a restaurant, from designing the menus to cooking the food from scratch and serving it. The student-driven restaurant is located on the Main Campus and is open to all students, faculty and the general public.

The program allows students and faculty with hectic schedules a chance to have a full-course meal at exceptionally low prices. A customer can get a soup or salad, main entree, desert and beverage for less than \$7, all in a relaxing atmosphere. Carryouts and delivery are also available.

"It's the best deal in town," said Culinary Arts instructor Keith VonHoff.

The Chef's Table is more than just cooking and serving, though. The prospective chefs are currently raising money for a scholarship named for the late Eric Leeson, a former student in the Culinary Arts program. To reach their goal of \$1500, all of the gratuities will be donated towards the culinary scholarship.

The always changing menu and some delicious recipes from the culinary students and instructors are some of the major fea-



Photo by Jessica Harvey

From left to right: Adrian Avelar and Brandy Kuczkowski. These culinary arts students prepare meals to be served at the "Chef's Table".



Photo by Jessica Harvey

JJC's "Chef's Table" offers a relaxed dining atmosphere on campus for students and faculty.

tures at the Chef's Table website at <http://www.jjc.edu/chefstable>. One of the future plans for the Chef's Table website include an online cookbook.

The Chef's Table is located in J-0004 and is open from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday. For more information on the Chef's Table, call 280-2343 or log on to their website at <http://www.jjc.edu/chefstable>.

Question of the Issue: What has been your best spring break?



Rachel Ormins

"I went to Florida and enjoyed swimming with the dolphins and went jet skiing."



Lamar Murphy

"I went to Mexico."



Amanda Rosas

"I'm waiting for it to happen."



Erin Labaj

"I went to the St. Louis Arch."



Jen Peterson

"I went to Corpus Christi, Texas and stayed along the Gulf of Mexico."



Tricia Sandborn

"I had a cosmic spring break once. I layed on a big romantic cushion at a place called Skybar, gazed into the stars through a transparent tent under a clear coastal view of the California sky."

Photos and copy by Jessica Harvey

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News Briefs

Multicultural Transfer Center: There will be a Navigating College: Minority Student & Parent Orientation Question & Answer Session on Tuesday, April 23, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in room J-0006. This event provides information about the opportunities available to minority students at JJC. For further information contact Angie Kaysen Luzbetak at 280-2449.

The Multicultural Transfer Center will also be holding a Transfer Center Lunch and Learn with Eastern Illinois University on Wednesday, April 10, from 11 a.m. to noon in room J-0006. This event is open to any JJC student who is considering transferring to a senior college. The university will discuss topics such as financial aid and scholarships, and answer questions that students may have. Lunch will be provided. For further information contact Angie Kaysen Luzbetak at 280-2449.

The Multicultural Transfer Center will also be holding a Minority Transfer Directors Conference on Wednesday, April 3, and Thursday, April 4, in the T-Building Conference room. For further information contact Angie Kaysen Luzbetak at 280-2449.

Campus Police: The Rape

Aggressions Defense Systems will be holding two 12-hour courses in self-defense tactics to prevent sexual assault this month. The classes are open to women ages 16 and over. Classes are offered on four consecutive Fridays for three hours each class. Classes are on April 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in KK 102 (green building located by parking lot A). Classes will also be offered on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for four hours each class. Classes are on April 16, 17, and 18 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in room C2018. There is a one-time fee of \$25 per person. Classes are limited to 10 people per class. For further information or to make reservations for a class, contact Joe Sikora at 280-2234.

International Students: Volunteer "Holiday Hosts" for the 2002-03 academic year are needed. As a volunteer, you would invite an international student to spend time with your family during one of the long holiday periods such as Labor Day, Thanksgiving, or Christmas. Contact Berta Arias at 280-2270 for more information.

Fine Arts Department: A student recital will be presented March 27 at 11 a.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. Admission is free.

Celebrity look-a-like



Jim Benzik



Scooby-doo's, Shaggy



Christine Dunn



Molly Ringwald



Craig Lowry



John Malkovich

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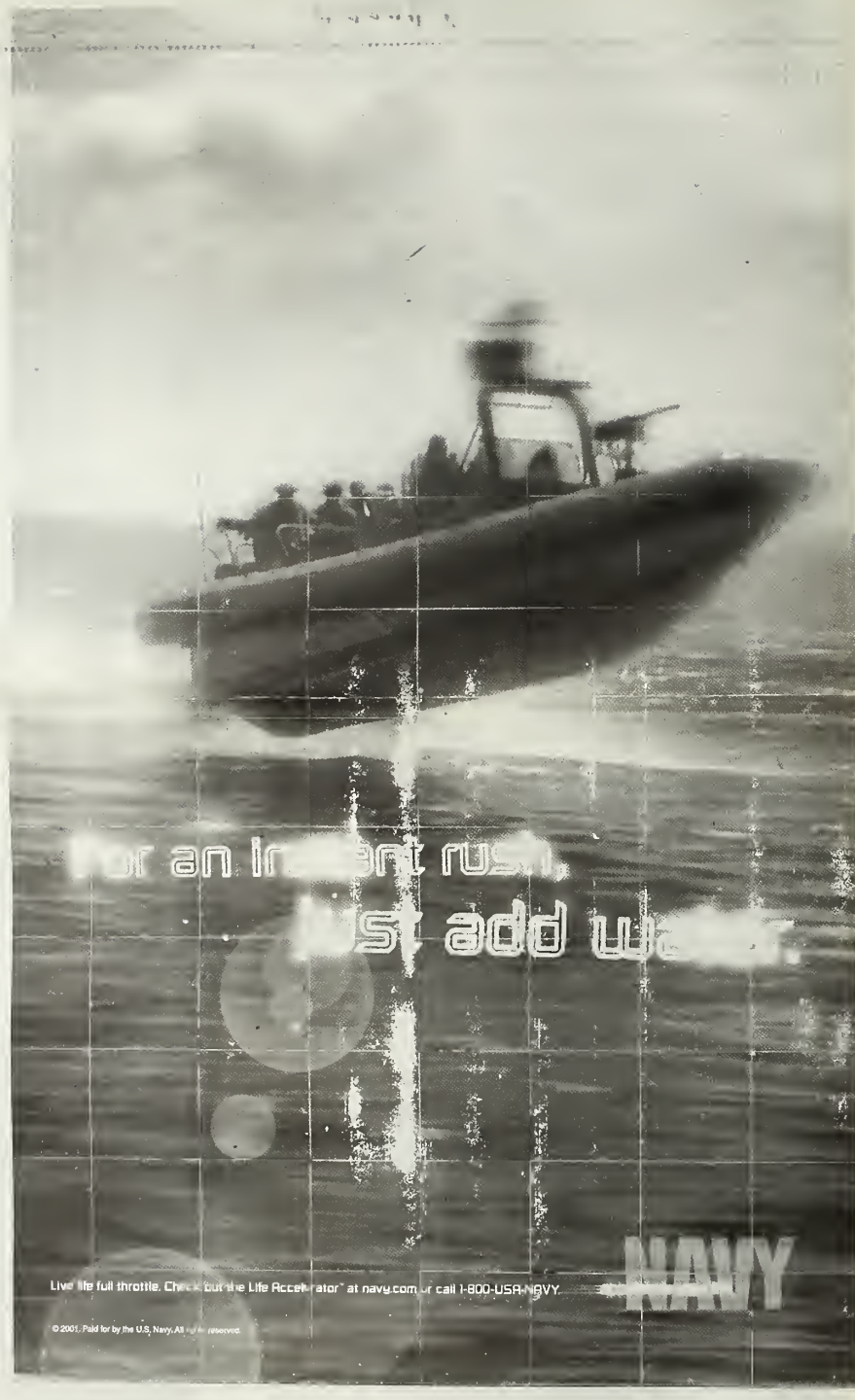
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NAVY

Student trustee election set for April 10-11; Winner to represent students on board

by Lisa Widlowski

With the student trustee election right around the corner, many students wonder, what exactly the student trustee does. The student trustee is the student body link to the administration. The elected student attends all of the board of trustee meetings where important decisions are made. Although he or she cannot vote, the students' opinion is to be considered. Since the student body is the core of this institution, the opinion of this student is typically taken very seriously.

"People don't know how much they can actually affect the institution," said Anissa Jones, Student Alliance advisor. Not

only by becoming student trustee, but by simply getting involved with Student Alliance, students can have their voices heard. The Student Alliance is involved in many committees around campus. It helps make decisions from what should be included in the code of conduct to how to spend the technology fees. Our current student trustee, Joe Szymanski, also attends all the Student Alliance meetings.

Szymanski graduates this spring, leaving the position of student trustee open. Jones hopes to see the future trustee be very involved on campus, show interest in how the college operates, and wish to see the college move

forward. Being involved is especially important because the trustee will learn about the strengths and weaknesses of JIC.

"People don't know how much they can actually affect the institution"

-Anissa Jones

The student trustee must dedicate much of his or her time to the position. There is one Board of Trustee meeting per month, plus any needed extra sessions.

There are tri-monthly meetings with other student trustees from community colleges across the state. The student trustee must also attend at least one student alliance meeting per month, preferably more.

The election will be held April 10 and 11. Students are encouraged to vote. Their ballot will help choose someone to voice student's opinions to the major decision makers of this institution.

If any students are interested in learning more about the student trustee or Student Alliance, they can stop by the Office of Student Services and Activities, located on the bridge.

2002-2003 Student Trustee Elections Timeline

April 10-11
Student Trustee Elections
April 12
Election Results Posted
April 15
Term Begins

Lavon Pettis, Don Terry, Bill Byerley battle for student trustee position

Lavon Pettis has been a student at Joliet Junior College for the past two years. She is a psychology major and plan on attending UIC in the fall of 2003. She is a member of the Black Student Union and President of The Student Alliance. She has worked with various committees on concerns such as campus security and The V-day Campaign. As student trustee she would like to express and represent the ideas and concerns of a growing student body, school and community.

Don Terry is a returning adult student from New Lenox and a graduate from Lincoln-Way High School. He is currently majoring in Marketing/Information Technology and is a member of Student Alliance/Student Government as vice-president of Cultural Diversity. Terry's goals include developing a better system of communication between, Board Trustees and Administration and Faculty and Support Staff to the students.

Bill Byerley is a 19-years old graduate with honors from Lincoln-Way High School. He is a freshman at Joliet Junior College. He successfully runs his own web site design and hosting business, *PageDesk Incorporated*. He believes in an open door policy, with close communications with the student body. He takes learning very seriously, and has a pro-active mindset on further education.



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MTV takes reality television to new level

Osbournes a
hilarious, unique
look into lives of
Ozzy & family

by Matt Sheehan

Now, reality TV has taken us to some wild, weird places. *Big Brother*, for example, reached deep into the lives of a dozen or so people of different races, backgrounds, and genders. Actually, I

really don't know because the show sucked so much that I refused to watch it. *Survivor* was bad enough. Other than those two, networks have tried, tried, and tried again to capture real life drama and have failed miserably. Now, the network of the "moonman"—MTV—has tried and succeeded at capturing real life in all its wonder. This life just happens to be that of goth metal rock king Ozzy Osbourne.

MTV's *The Osbournes* takes us into the lives of Ozzy and family-wife Sharon, daughter Kelly, son Jack, and, yes, the pets.

Although some scenes seem fixed for television, it is not hard to believe that Ozzy can be, and probably is, this crazy.

Ozzy and Kelly seem to get bleeped all the time. Sharon follows not too far behind, but Jack seems to be "lone'd" down. I'm pretty sure I heard some bleeps while Jack opened his mouth. Phil Rosenthal of the *Chicago Sun-Times* says that "the steady torrent of bleeps makes you think there's a truck backing up in your living room." Ah, what quality television.

But that is not the only quality

aspect. The quality only begins when the bleeps start flying from left to right. What is quality comedy if not for a crazy rocket like Ozzy Osbourne, who spends a load of money on a state-of-the-art home entertainment center with a mini-computer as the remote control, and then discovers that it is a complicated piece of "bleep." How is that not funny?

Another episode has the Osbournes trying to find a lost cat, with Jack dressing up in a full military camouflage outfit. Ozzy complains that if Sharon finds the cat that there will be no more animals in the house. But, of course, how do you think that goes over?

Yes, some morals (but mostly a lack of) are presented. For example, Ozzy tells his daughter, "Don't drink, don't take drugs and, if you have sex, wear a condom," before Kelly leaves for some clubs. But who would really consider Ozzy, the god of metal goth rock, a philosopher and upright citizen, mentor, and father figure?

So, go laugh yourself stupid so that *The Osbournes* affect your life so dramatically that you start walking, talking, and writing in bleeps. Ozzy, you bleeping rock!

If you didn't get enough bleepin bleeps, then visit, www.geocities.com/mjs941jpc/



The Osbourne family from left to right, daughter Kelly, Ozzy, wife Sharon and son Jack.



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4 minutes down on left side just past Smith Rd. light

Dear Mandy

Readers ask Mandy questions pertaining to dating, style, and confidentiality.

Dear Mandy,

I am a freshman here at JJC. I transferred from SIU after the fall semester. I am 20-year-old male and a hopeless romantic! I have a hard time meeting new people since I moved back home, more specifically girls. It's hard for me to approach a person of the female persuasion without becoming a goof, or acting retarded in front of them. Am I just weird or is there no one out there for me?

Goofball

Dear Goofball,

As long as you're not standing around actin' like a monkey and droolin' on their shoes... Most girls will think you're funny (in a good way). Most of us girls like a guy with a sense of humor.

So just take a couple of deep breaths and be yourself! I'm POSITIVE there is someone out there who will love you for you... GOOFBALL OR NOT!

Dear Mandy,

I need some help. I am a 19-year-old male freshman who delivers pizza for a living. I can't afford tickets to go to see my favorite band, NSYNC. Are there any jobs on campus for my boyfriend and I so we can afford to go see and even meet NSYNC?

East side pizza man

Dear East side pizza man,

Your request is easily answered. Just check out the JJC website at www.jjc.cc.il.us. There is a section for jobs on campus, just do a search on the home page for jobs on campus.

Dear Mandy,

I have a couple questions...
1. Do you think there's some-

thing wrong with you if you wait to have sex until you married? Could this possibly be the answer to why I don't have a boyfriend?
2. Do you think that if you don't have a date by a certain age, it means your gay?

Unlucky-27

Dear Unlucky-27,

Here are some fast answers to your questions...

1. No, there is nothing "wrong" with waiting for marriage to "do the deed". Most people actually feel that waiting is a very respectable decision, and if all a guy wants from you is sex... Then girl move on!

2. Not at all... unless your friend you really attracted to the same sex. Then well... that's a BIG indicator.

However, some people just don't date. And that's completely O.K.! Have no fear! Your true love is out there. It just may take you a while to find them.

Dear Mandy,

I met a girl in one of my classes. She is everything I could ever think of wanting in a girl, smart, beautiful, mature and caring. The thing is, I haven't really asked anyone out because I had just broke up with this girl I was with throughout high school. I feel that I have lost my confidence in myself. What do I do?

Game Over

Dear Game Over,

The "game" hasn't changed; you're just out of practice. So... with this girl in your class, my advice is, TAKE IT SLOW! Rushing into things may scare her off. Ask her out for coffee or something, as friends. If she accepts, take things from there. Most great relationships are built on strong friendships.

Good luck!

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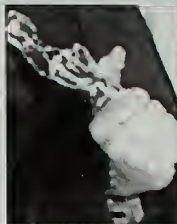
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ACTRESS - SUPPORTING
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Aron Warner

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MOULIN ROUGE
Catherine Martin (Art Direction) and Brigitte Broch (Set Decoration)

CINEMATOGRAPHY
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Andrew Lesnie



COSTUME DESIGN
MOULIN ROUGE
Catherine Martin and Angus Strathie

DIRECTING
A BEAUTIFUL MIND
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FILM EDITING
BLACK HAWK DOWN
Pietro Scalia

MUSIC (SCORE)
LORD OF THE RINGS
Howard Shore

MUSIC (SONG)
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VISUAL EFFECTS
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Jim Rygiel, Randall William Cook, Richard Taylor and Mark Stetson

WRITING (ADAPTED)
A BEAUTIFUL MIND
Written by Akiva Goldsman

Music Review
by Jason Baloun

Local H album contains simply "good music"



Local H

Here Comes the Zoo

I have to admit that I'm not very knowledgeable about this band, but all I can say is wow. It appears that the ability to make good music isn't quite gone yet. Local H appears to have only two members, Brian St. Clair plays drums and Scott Lucas does everything else. This is their fourth release, and it's bursting with fruit flavor.

The style is somewhat reminiscent of The Offspring's *Smash*, but also sounds fresh and alive.

"Rock & Roll Professionals" is basically four minutes of bashing the music business, a risky thing for a newly blossoming

CD Ratings by Jason Baloun

- **** Skip class and go buy it
- *** Buy it at later date
- ** Find someone who has it and copy it
- * Find someone who has it and laugh

band to do. And any song that has a line like "it's all about the ben-jamins" is okay in my book.

The best song on *Here Comes the Zoo* would have to be "Creature Comforted." It's common for bands to complain about things these days, but Local H doesn't follow the "bla bla bla life sucks" formula. They keep the music fast paced and the lyrics are witty rather than depressing.

Stand could learn a thing or two from these guys.

You'll enjoy listening to all of the songs on *Here Comes the Zoo*, especially with your windows rolled down and the volume obnoxiously loud. Local H may not symbolize the future direction of music, but they will remind you of what good music actually sounds like.

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Dumb Facts

The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum!

A 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second!

The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog," uses every letter of the alphabet!

The average life span of a major league baseball is 5-7 pitches!

The only 15-letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is "uncopyrightable"!

One in every 4 Americans has appeared on television!

Over 10,000 birds a year die from smashing into windows!

More people use blue toothbrushes than red ones!

In Bangladesh, kids as young as 15 can be jailed for cheating on their finals!

There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with orange, purple, and month!

Men are 6 times more likely to be struck by lightning than women!

The average person laughs 13 times a day!

Of all the words in the English language, the word *ser* has the most definitions!

Most people take an average of seven minutes to fall asleep Reykjavik, Iceland is warmer than Chicago, Illinois in the winter.

A U.S. backed government study found that pigs can become alcoholics.

The 100 years war lasted 116 years.



HOROSCOPES



Aries (March 21 - April 19)

Tired of being bullied around? You should have thought of that before you became a rodeo clown!



Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

Your decision to play it by ear will result in a very silly-looking recital!



Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

This is a good day to bake. Cinnamon rolls would be good. Or perhaps some crusty bread. If you follow my advice, you will make friends and influence people. Otherwise a horrifying fate awaits you. No pressure, though. Do what you feel is right for you.



Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

You will win big at a poker game this week. Don't forget to hide four different aces up your sleeve. Your friends might get suspicious if you show them two aces of clubs in your hand.



Leo (July 23 - August 22)

You will suddenly develop an overwhelming need to scream. "I'm not obsessive - compulsive," each time you see a blue car.



Virgo (August 23 - Sept. 22)

You will enter a plea of insanity after being arrested for investing your life savings in a scheme to counterfeit pennies.



Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

Writing will begin on your autobiography entitled "My Life Behind Bars."



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You will be detained by the police today, on suspicion of having removed a tag from a mattress. Eventually they will let you go with just a warning.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will take a wrong turn, today, and become hopelessly lost. Eventually you will start a new life in Minnesota, along with all the other people who have little sense of direction. It'll be ok, providing you like tuna casserole.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You will get your way in everything you attempt to accomplish this week. Just don't let it go to your head or you will blow your chance to dominate the little people at the McDonald's playground.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will drop your Human Sexuality class after misinterpreting the teacher's statement that the final exam will be given orally.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)

You will need a blood transfusion after suffering a freak paper cut.



Dean Hashimoto,
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RAPE

Anonymous victim tells her traumatic story

By Kristin Hulva

There are many ways to help avoid being a victim of rape, but what if you were just raped by your significant other? Maybe you have been slating this person for months or even years. Would you have the courage to turn this person in to the authorities? If not, would you know where to go to get help?

Nearly six out of 10 rape or sexual assault incidents, which are reported by the victim, have occurred in the victim's own home or at the home of a friend, relative or neighbor (U.S. Department of Justice).

Unfortunately, this true story you are about to read happened last year to a Joliet Junior College female in her own home. Names have been left out to protect those people involved.

Editors note: Names have been left out to protect those people involved. The victim of the rape wrote the events written below.

Only 16 percent of rapes are ever reported to the police.

Her Story: There are certain dates that you will always remember like birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, or the year you graduated high school. A date I will always remember is St. Patrick's Day. On that day I was raped by my boyfriend of over two years.

The National Victim Center reports that 683,000 women are raped per year, and 13.3 percent of college women say they had been forced to have sex in a dating situation.

That night a friend of mine who lived nearby was having a party that I met my boyfriend at after work. Some friends were home from college, everyone was partying, and the beer was colored green in the spirit of the holiday, so I jumped right in on the fun.

The keg went dry only about an hour or so when I got there so I wanted another beer. Stupidly, I drank the last one that was left unclaimed and looking back I wonder if there was something more in that beer than green food coloring. I don't know if there was anything in the spirit of the holiday, so I jumped right in on the fun.

I didn't want my boyfriend to drive all the way back to his house drunk, so I told him he

could sleep over since my house was so close. My parent's weren't big on the idea of him staying over but I knew they'd rather him stay over than drive home drunk.

The National Violence Against Women Survey found that of the women who reported being raped, 54 percent were under the age of 18 at the time of the first rape and 83 percent were under the age of 25.

So, when we got to my house I went upstairs to my bedroom to change. All of a sudden I felt really sick and it became a struggle to put my pajamas on. I've been drunk before but I have never felt the way I did that night. All I wanted to do was pass out but I made my way downstairs to where my boyfriend was.

After stumbling downstairs, I found him waiting for me with sex on his mind. I however, was in no condition to even give it a second thought or respond to the idea. I fell onto the blankets and I felt like I was going to die.

My boyfriend watched TV for a few more minutes and then laid down next to me. He put his arms around me to pull me closer and I slurred out words to tell him that I was really drunk and didn't feel good. I could actually feel that there was no color in my face. I also had been having hot flashes that left me in cold sweats and I couldn't keep my eyes open for more than a few seconds.

He didn't seem to understand me though because he started trying to kiss me. I kept telling him to stop and when he laid on top of me I told him that I was going to throw up. Then, instead of helping me to the bathroom, he just repositioned himself. I kept telling him every time he tried to kiss me or touch me to stop, but he was very persistent and I was very drunk and I could not physically make him stop. In fact, by this point I could barely move my lips to talk.

Nearly 6 out of 10 rape or sexual assault incidents are reported by victims to have occurred in their own home or at the home of a friend, relative, or neighbor (U.S. Department of Justice).

Through my pleas of "no" and "stop" and "I don't feel good," he had removed some of my clothes without me being able to move to stop him. When he started to rape me all I wanted to do was to finish so that it would be over. He wouldn't listen to me. My body felt paralyzed so I couldn't push him off of me. I felt myself passing out and prayed that I would so I wouldn't be aware of what was happening to me. I have never thought that I would ever be in a situation where I could be raped, especially by my own boyfriend.

The next morning when I asked him what went through his head he just laughed it off saying he was drunk. I made a few more comments and then we both had to leave because I had to work. The whole day I felt so dirty. My boyfriend had made me feel dirty.

Sexual assault can be verbal, visual, audio, or any other form which forces a person to participate in unwanted sexual contact or attention. All forms of sexual assault are crimes.

Over the next week, I kept trying to push the issue but he just didn't seem to have any remorse for what he did. He thought because he was drunk that night it justified what happened, but it didn't. While I should have been debating about whether to press charges or go to the doctor, I debated on whether to break up with him. I wanted to stay with him because I wanted him to make me feel better about what happened. I wanted him to show me that he was sorry and to make things right. I wanted him to care. Instead, he broke up with me, saying that I always had to make such a big deal out of things and blow everything out of proportion. I was devastated. He didn't want to fix things, and he didn't care.

We got back together shortly after and I broke up with him very soon after that. I wasn't comfortable with the idea of having sex with him and I had a lot to deal with. He didn't understand that. Sex was too important to him. He made me feel worse when I needed him to do the impossible and make things better. It took me a while to realize it, but now I knew I couldn't ever be with him again.

Then came the recovery period. I began experiencing several different emotions that I didn't know how to handle. One minute I would be fine and the next I would be crying or angry about anything. I was irritable a lot. I

felt all kinds of rage and anxiety. Any emotion I felt was intensified to an extreme.

As if these feelings weren't enough, I felt completely alone. I chose not to tell my parents and confided in only a few of my friends. But I needed the support that I never fully attained from anyone. I didn't get it from my family because they didn't know what was going on. My friends were there for me but not as much as I needed them to be and probably only because they didn't know what to do. Rape is an unfathomable concept that is only understood if you've been through it.

So, I tried to just ignore my feelings, but no matter how hard I tried I couldn't stop thinking about what happened. I didn't know how to get over being raped by my boyfriend. So, in a quest for answers such as, "Why can't I get over this? Why do I still feel this way? How could my own boyfriend do this to me? And when will I be okay again?" I decided to learn more about date rape. I went to the RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network) website.

Up until now I have been involved with on-line counseling that I found on a link on the RAINN website. This completely confidential website allows you to correspond with a counselor who acts as a friend answering any questions and guides the victim to the kind of help she needs. The counselor will help the victim find professional help in their area, like a rape crisis center if requested to do so by the victim.

My online counselor has helped me to realize that the overwhelming feelings and emotions I experience aren't going to just disappear. I've been told that the longer I just cope instead of deal with being raped, the harder the recovery process will continue to be. Although it has taken me about a year, I have finally built up enough courage to set up my first appointment for one-on-one, in-person counseling. Now I can begin to really start dealing with what being a rape victim has done to me.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, an estimated 91 percent of the victims of rape and sexual assault are female and 9 percent are male.

I encourage anyone who has been raped to get the support they need by confiding in friends or family, keeping your feelings to yourself will only make a bad situation worse. Also, don't be afraid to get counseling that is

often needed to deal with the rape. No one teaches us how to deal with being raped, and it isn't until we are victimized that we realize we need to be taught how to deal with it.

From one rape victim's experience, you can see that rape can happen to anyone. As you can see, sometimes the offender is able to take advantage of the victim because the victim is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Even if you were drinking alcohol or taking drugs at the time of the attack, sexual assault is a crime. You can help someone who's been sexually assaulted by believing her or him. Show your support by listening and offering comfort. Go with her or him to the police, the hospital, counseling or a support group to help them sort out emotions. Reinforce the message that she or he is not at fault, and that it is natural to feel angry and ashamed. Also, survivors of rape often experience changes in their overall health. If you or someone you know has been a victim of rape you can call these numbers: the National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE, 1-800-787-3224, or (800) 656-HOPE. Websites available are www.4women.gov and www.RAINN.com

In a survey of victims who were assaulted but did not report the rape or attempted rape to the police, victims gave the following reasons for not making a report:

- 43 percent thought nothing could be done
- 27 percent thought it was a private matter
- 12 percent were afraid of police response
- 12 percent thought it was not important enough

Veterinary Program saves animals, offers pet adoption

by Carrie Roderick

As part of its curriculum, the Veterinary Medical Technology Program at JJC acquires 15 dogs and 15 cats each semester from the Joliet Township Animal Control.

The animal control takes in numerous stray animals from all of Will County. About 50 animals per week are put to sleep because homes cannot be found for them. The Vet Tech program takes in these strays to use in the program.

Each student receives an ani-

mal for the semester. The students learn to give vaccinations, pull samples for heartworm testing and blood workups. Some of the animals are neutered. If there is surgery being taught in class, the spay or neuter is done by the veterinarian, with the students learning to assist and monitor anesthesia.

At the end of the semester the animals are then up for adoption. The adoption process is done in conjunction with animal control. If they are not adopted, they go back to animal control.

"The program is good because it provides students with hands on experience and saves animals," said Ripper. The animal control receives inadequate funds for all of the animals they take care of, added Ripper. The students held a dog wash and with the proceeds bought animal control a washer and dryer. The first graduating class all passed their board exams. The two-year pro-



PHOTO BY JESSICA HARVEY

These cuddly creatures will be available for adoption through JJC's Vet Tech program.

gram is so popular there is a 200-person waiting list.

This is the program's third year, over 50 animals have been adopted out. All of the animals have been adopted the last two semesters. The adoption fee is much cheaper at the Vet Tech program because all of the work is

done there.

There are three dogs and eight cats still available for adoption. The animals will be up for adoption at the end of the semester on May 3, 2002. The fee for a dog that has not been neutered is \$80; if neutered it is \$15. The \$80 fee includes neutering at a veterinarian that accepts the animal control coupon. The dogs leave with all their vaccinations including distemper, parvo, and rabies. They are heartworm tested and dewormed as needed. The dogs have been x-rayed, and worked up and treated for any medical conditions. They are also micro-chipped for identification.

Female cats are \$80 if not spayed. All male cats are neutered and their fee is \$15. The cats receive all their vaccinations including feline distemper and rabies. They are also leukemia tested and micro-chipped.

The animals are bathed and handled daily. Many of the students take them home for weekends and holidays. The animals are also assessed on temperament. The students then know if they like other animals and kids.

The adoption procedure once an animal has been chosen includes going to the Joliet Animal Township Control, 2807 McDonough St., in Joliet, where the adopters will register and pay the fee. The animal can be picked up afterwards at the Vet Tech building.

The program will be hosting an open house April 13, 2002, with representatives from companies such as Purina.

Anyone interested in meeting the animals can contact Susan Ripper at 280-2765.



PHOTO BY JESSICA HARVEY

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The Lake Shore Campus on Chicago's North Side
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PHOTO BY JESSICA HARVEY



Lisa Widlowski, a second-year JJC student had three of her devotionals published in a book entitled "Stand Your Ground: Devotions for Teens by Teens."

Student has devotionals published in nationally distributed collection

by Scott Bessler

A second-year JJC student has recently made a name for herself in print. Three devotionals she wrote and submitted were published in a nationally distributed collection of teen-written devotionals.

Lisa Widlowski, an active member of Phi Theta Kappa and reporter for *The Blazer*, found out about this opportunity while attending a conference for the Illinois District Youth Board.

"They were looking for writer's to submit devotionals to

be published in a collection," said Widlowski.

She had set the information about it aside, and later come across it a week before deadline. "I decided I would give it a try," said Widlowski.

Widlowski submitted 3 separate devotionals to be considered for entry in the collection. To her surprise, all three of her devotionals were accepted.

The devotionals were based upon Widlowski's own life experiences. They were each respectively titled "I Do," "He Has Plans For You," and "Friends

"I decided I would give it a try,"

-Lisa Widlowski

May Fail."

The devotionals appeared in the book, *Stand Your Ground Devotions for Teens by Teens*. The books were sold at a nationwide convention.

"I really like to write," said Widlowski. As for her future as a writer, "I probably wouldn't want to make a career out of it. But it's still fun."

Cafeteria director clears up inaccurate information on food item price increases

by Molly McKeon

In response to a recent newsletter by a student organization that criticized food service prices at the college, the director of Food Services at JJC has asked for the opportunity to "clear things up."

A newsletter printed and distributed by American Freedom Organization accused the food service of raising prices this year "in order to make up for loss of income on the school's food services." But, according to Food Service Director Brian Hill, while the prices were raised in February, it had nothing to do with the food service losing money.

In a meeting on Wednesday, March 20, with the AFO, Hill addressed the newsletter and its contents and provided the *Blazer* with what he said was accurate information regarding the matter.

"We didn't raise prices because we lost money last year," said Hill. The American Freedom Organization had accused the school of upping prices twice during the current school year due to lost income. According to Hill, the prices have only been raised once, in February, and he denies that the raise came because of lost cafeteria income.

"We didn't raise prices because we lost money last year"

-Brian Hill

"In actuality, the food service made \$1,500 last year," said Hill. Anyone has the right to this information by visiting the library and looking at the board reports from June 30 of last fiscal year. This price increase in February was the first price increase in four years at JJC and only half of the items on the cafeteria menu were raised, according to Hill.

Most students have noticed

the 25-cent increase in soda.

"We did change the price of our pop beverages in the vending machines, and I stay consistent with the pop vending machine prices on the request of Pepsi ...

What I'm attempting to do, is not charge the students extra money but to encourage the students not to use paper products when it's not necessary."

-Brian Hill

so as not to create competition between the vending machines and the cafeteria. This way, students have the option of buying pop wherever on campus and it is the same price everywhere," said Hill.

Several items that have been increased in price include French fries, chicken sandwiches, cookies, condoms and brownies, as well as a few selected beverages on the menu. Also, the cafeteria has started charging 15-cents for carryout containers. Hill claims this 15-cent rule has been around since 1998, but he hasn't enforced it until recently when students began abusing it and containers were going to waste.

"What I'm attempting to do," said Hill, "is not charge the students extra money but to encourage the students not to use paper products when it's not necessary."

Many students here at the college did not agree with price increase on food. Many argued that they shouldn't have to pay up to six dollars to eat a hearty lunch at school or pay \$1.25 for a bottle of pop between classes. But are these prices too steep for their average college student? Hill says that the cafeteria facilities here at JJC are still far more reasonable

than other college cafeterias in the state of Illinois and that the cafeteria does its best to keep prices low for the students.

Hill points out that although a student can't purchase a 99-cent junior bacon cheeseburger at JJC's cafeteria like you can at local fast food chains, the student needs to consider the small amount of meat on one of those 99-cent sandwiches compared to the hearty amount of meat JJC's cafeteria puts on its hamburgers.

The main argument from the American Freedom Organization, which had representatives at the meeting with Hill, is that the food service raised these prices without letting the students know. They felt that the increase should have been advertised around school, etc., so that the consumers would know of such changes beforehand.

"There is really no way of getting around higher cafeteria prices in the future."

Hill said that because the cafeteria's costs are constantly rising, there is really no way of getting around higher cafeteria prices in the future because the cafeteria is not government funded. However, Hill said the food service at JJC is working to make prices affordable and reasonable for the students and their active lifestyle by trying to add more "to go" items, such as the new soft, stuffed pretzel just added to the menu.

AFO argued that a student could drive off campus and buy a lunch cheaper than what students are paying on campus. Hill countered that by the time a student adds the cost of gas they are using and the time it takes to drive somewhere off campus, the student has not only wasted time, but has actually spent more money.

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Students take "credit" for debt problems

How to avoid being a victim of credit card mismanagement

By Jennifer Graves

Americans today are getting a failing grade on their credit "report-card." Average consumer debt today stands at an average of \$7000. Last year alone 1.3 million Americans filed for bankruptcy.

One of the hardest hit groups that use credit cards is a college student. Not only do many, if not most college students get carried away with their first credit cards, but many have balances on several cards that would compare to some student loans. "I have no student loans, so most expenses go on my credit card," said Megan, 21.

29.9 percent in some cases.

So what is the significance of learning about the different rates on your cards and shopping around for the best rate?

The average college student with just \$3000 in debt would need 16 years and nine months to repay just one card and incur a total of about \$3000 in finance charges. Multiply those figures by the average 3 cards per student and you can figure that the average college student will be paying off their cards for the next 40 years give or take a year. The numbers only get higher



son can go to for help with debt management; they include non-profit credit counselors to debt consolidation firms. Some non-profit credit counseling services are the National Foundation for Consumer Credit. They can be contacted at 1-800-388-2227. Also, Debt Counselors of America, who provides similar services, can be contacted at 1-800-680-3328.

Remember the next time you go to make a purchase, think to yourself: "How much is this? Do I really need this item? Can I afford this item? Most importantly, for how many years do I want to pay for this item?" Become an educated and credit-responsible consumer. Don't become victim to a life of credit worry.

Now is the time to start thinking about your future, many financial advisors also advise young consumers to contribute to retirement funds like 401k.

and more shocking as the balances and rates go up. College students are particularly vulnerable to the traps of credit card debt.

There are many places a per-

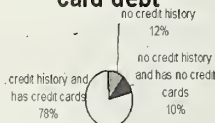


According to an article from the Feb. 9 issue of *The Herald News*, the average credit card interest rate nationwide stood at 14.41 percent in November, down from 16.57 percent at the start of 2001. Despite this decline, many people are still drowning in the high interest rates imposed on them from the credit companies.

Most of the interest rates still stand at between 14 percent and 1 percent.

Interest rates are what credit card lenders charge you, the consumer, to borrow their money. Rates can vary from card to card, and unbelievably most store or merchant cards can charge up to

Undergraduate student credit card debt



Statistics to think about:

Undergraduate Student Credit Card Debt:

Students with no credit history—12 percent

Students with no credit history having no credit cards—10 percent

Students with a credit history and had credit cards—78 percent

Of the 78 percent who have credit cards: 32 percent have 4 or more cards

Average number of cards—3

Average credit card debt—\$ 2,748

13 percent have credit debt between \$3000 - \$7000

9 percent have credit debt greater than \$7000

There is hope however for a person serious about becoming debt free.

Simple tips include:

Make a budget for yourself and stick to it

Cancel and close out any cards you don't use anymore

Do Not keep all your cards in your wallet at all times, this will help you avoid any impulse buying

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Wolves' softball team has high aspirations for upcoming season

by Scott Bessler

The Lady Wolves Softball season is officially underway, as the girls look forward to a banner season with a new coaching staff led by head coach Kym McKay.

The girls opened the season on a low note with a 2-6 first game loss against Lake County on March 15, but managed to bounce back for a 7-6 second game victory against Kishwaukee Community College on March 20. Freshman Anna Wallace pitched the win. Teammates Kristen Capista, sophomore, Jenny Delrose, freshman, and Kellie Lynn, sophomore, each had two hits.

The five sophomores that comprise the team's 2002 roster are Kellie Lynn (P, 3B/Coal City), Kelly Hackl (2B, OF/Reed-Custer), Heather Pope (OF/Newark), Kristen Capista (SS/Joliet Township), and Kristen McDonald (C, 3B/Lincoln Way). Returner members Lynn and Hackl were 1st Team and 2nd Team All-Conference selections respectively in their freshman seasons and Pope was a key utility player. Other sophomores, Capista and McDonald, are transfers from Indiana University and Knox College/Lewis University respectively. They will be looked at to provide invaluable collegiate experience to the team.

The blend of the sophomore talent and

experience with the incoming freshman will be a huge key to the team's potential success. All of the freshmen come from area high school programs that are fundamentally strong and have proven success. Jenny Delrose (C/Joliet Catholic) and Tara Walden (OF/Reed-Custer) will provide the team with solid defense and offense.

The team is looking to place in the top half of the NAC Conference and hopes to return to the Region IV Championship game. JJC will host Triton College on Fri March 30 at noon in their last home game matchup before a three-game road trip.



Baseball coach becomes "King" for the day after 500th victory

by Kristin Hulva

Wayne King gains his 500th win Tuesday March 19 at the home game against Oaktown.

The wolves scored in the first-inning as singles by Mike Maher and Jeff Bachta preceded Kevin Boyd's sacrifice fly. The Wolves scored again in the fourth. After a pitch hit Bill Suppes, K.C. Whitgrove's sacrifice bunt was thrown away. Morris' Pete Wheeler delivered an RBI hit. Kevin Boyd, playing first base preserved the shutout in the ninth by driving to stop a hard-hit grounder to his left.

"We wanted to make sure that coach got the win on his field," JJC shortstop Mike Maher said.

Past players, who King guided to win from the NJCAA Division III World Series championship in 1994, also came to see King receive his 500th win.

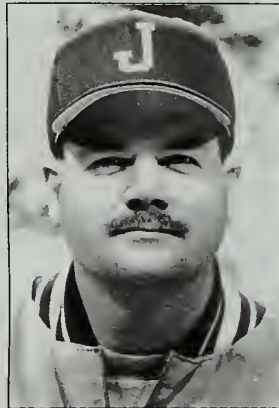
Carl Ziech, a past player for the Wolves' who is the record holder from 1997 for the most triples in a single-season came back to see King hit his 500 win and was quoted by the Herald

News saying, "It was nice to come back and see coach and to have him win his 500th game. Coach King has given area players the opportunity to play baseball at a fine facility. He also gives young guys the chance to go on and play at a four-year school. He has a good program and I'm glad I played here."

"To see former players, coaches, and parents of former players here really means a lot. I guess that says something positive about our program and what we have tried to do here. We've always done things at Joliet Junior College with the kids in mind," said King when commenting on past players showing up to watch him reach his 500th win.

King, who is a former starting catcher at Division I Ohio University, was named JJC coach in 1986.

The wolves celebrated the victory on March 19 by pouring water on King during extremely cold temperatures after their win against Oaktown.



Blazer File Photo
Men's baseball head coach, Wayne King, achieved his 500th career coaching win in a game March 19.

Baseball home games

Wednesday March 27 against Kishwaukee College at 2:30 p.m.
Friday March 29 against Triton College at 12 p.m. (DH)
Thursday April 4 against Illinois Valley Community College at 2:30 p.m.
Saturday April 6 against College of DuPage at 12 p.m. (DH)
Tuesday April 9 against Kankakee Community College at 3 p.m.
Wednesday April 10 against Blackhawk College at 2 p.m. (DH)
Thursday April 18 against Moraine Valley Community College at 3 p.m.
Saturday April 20 against Rock Valley College at 12 p.m. (DH)

Softball home games

March 30 against Triton College at 12 p.m.
April 9 against College of DuPage at 3 p.m.
April 17 against Illinois Valley Community College at 3 p.m.
April 23 against Rock Valley College at 3 p.m.
April 24 against Moraine Valley Community College at 3 p.m.

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Wolves baseball team "throws a fast one" past competitors as they up their wins

by Scott Bessler

Recently coming off from Head Coach Wayne King's recent 500th win, the Wolves' baseball team keeps the tradition of victory alive after a two-win, double-header triumph over Waukesha.

The Wolves maulled Waukesha 9-2 and 15-3 respectively in a two-game, home match-up Saturday. As of press-time, the Wolves are on a five-game winning streak.

Freshman Keith Pfeifer

pitched the first game for the Wolves. Pfeifer struck out four, allowed six hits and walked one. Morris' Pete Wheeler and Andy Radak had three hits and two RBIs. Radak doubled and tripled. Adding his second home run of the season was sophomore Kevin Boyd.

In part two of the double-header, Boyd allowed three first-inning runs, but came back for the victory for the Wolves.

Sophomore Mike Maher delivered three hits and two RBIs.

Freshman Jeff Bachta scored three RBIs, and sophomore Ryan Coughill added two hits. Wheeler and Ty Tornincasa contributed two RBIs.

The Wolves, 7-6, competed in their second double header in a row Sunday against Waubesa College. The Wolves play in a home game today against Kishwaukee at 2:30 p.m. The Wolves stay at home for another game Friday against Triton College at noon.

Men's tennis home games

Thursday April 11 against Elgin Community College at 2:30 p.m.

Saturday April 13 against Augustana College at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday April 16 against Rock Valley College at 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday April 23 at Waubesa Community College at 2:45 p.m.

Wednesday April 24 against Illinois Valley Community College at 2:30 p.m.



Baseball team strives for a win on their home field.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JJC WEBSITE



Athletes of the issue



Anna Wallace



Ryan Coughill

This freshman has made outstanding progress for the Lady Wolves softball team. Anna Wallace graduated from Joliet Township High School. She stands out as the first basemen and also pitches. Come support the Lady Wolves at their next home game March 30 at noon against Triton College.

Ryan Coughill, a second basemen for the Wolves has done an outstanding job contributing to the baseball teams victories. This 5-11, 170 pound sophomore came from Reed-Custer High School. He will be attending Western Illinois University next year for baseball. Come support the Wolves at their next home game, a double header, March 29 at noon against Triton College.

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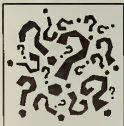
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Culinary students get "silver-wear" at Midwest regional competition

by Lisa Widlowski

A five-student team of culinary art students participated in a competition against the top culinary schools in the Midwest region. The team finished with a silver medal. At this competition in Lake Geneva, the students were judged on their preparation of a hot, four-course meal, and on their knife skills.

The five-student team had been practicing together, at least once a week, since September. Each member had a very specific part of the meal. The team captain, Eric Olsen, oversaw the preparation. He made sure everything was running smoothly and helped with whatever was needed. Jon Kemp was in charge of the salad course. The fish course was prepared by Don Kantowski. Brad Elston made the entrée. Finally, Tia Willis prepared the desert. The JJC team was coached by Chef Kyle Richardson.

For the four-course meal, they were judged on many variables including time, restrictions, preparation, amount of waste, appearance, taste, quality of



Jon Kemp, left, and Don Kantowski "plate-up" for the hot foods competition.

ingredients, cooking methods and professionalism. Judges typically included Master Chefs. They are very tough and, at times, critical despite the students' effort.

For the Knife Skill competition, the students were judged on speed and precision. For example, if dicing a piece of ham, the cubes would be measured exactly, weighed, and compared with the rest of the team. Amount of waste

is also considered.

To get to this regional competition the JJC culinary team first had to win the state competition. Being the Illinois state champions is amazing, explained Chef McGreal. Especially when they competed against private schools including Illinois Art Institute, CHIC, and Kendall College. Those culinary students are paying \$40,000 for their

degrees while JJC students pay \$3,000.

Two JJC culinary instructors also competed in Lake Geneva. Chef Michael McGreal is competing for the Chef Professionalism of the Year award and Chef Albert Imming competed for Chef of the Year.

The JJC culinary team worked extremely hard to attend this competition.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CULINARY ARTS DEPARTMENT

From left, Don Kantowski, Jon Kemp and Bradley Elston take part in the cutting skills competition.

JJC student dies in car accident

by Scott Bessler

When a promising student is suddenly taken from this life at such a young age, it truly is a tragedy. On Friday, March 29, a vehicle being driven by 18-year old JJC student Ryan McCarrall struck a tree on Weber road in Joliet. The accident took place at approximately 5:30 a.m., and took the life of the young student.

McCarrall suffered massive trauma to his

head in the accident. He was rushed by ambulance to Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center immediately following the accident, but was pronounced dead at 6:03 a.m.

Ryan McCarrall was born on August 24, 1983 in Canton, IL. He was a Class of 2001 graduate of Joliet Central High School, where he was awarded Male Athlete of the Year.

McCarrall actively participated in the track and football programs at Joliet

Township.

At Joliet Junior College, McCarrall suffered a neck injury while playing. He sat out for much of the season, but had plans to resume playing his sophomore year.

McCarrall's funeral service was held on Tuesday, April 2, at Joliet Central, McCarrall played wearing number 11. When he was buried, McCarrall was wearing his high school number.

Our View

This year taught lessons not learned in books

This is usually the part where the staff would reflect upon what we have learned over the span of the last two semesters. We should talk about how our campus community has improved, and what we can look forward to next semester. But, it just doesn't seem right.

So much has happened to our country over the span of the last year or so that it doesn't seem right to talk about trivial items such as what hasn't been done around campus.

Two major events over the past two semesters have forever changed the way we think, act and work.

The terrorist attacks on our nation have changed many of our conceptions. Some have forced us for the better and will have to be more conscientious; others will undoubtedly prove to be detrimental to our society. This might include prejudices and generalizations many misinformed citizens have conceived based

upon the racial backgrounds of those responsible for the attacks.

But even more powerful than just how we feel about other people is how other nations view us. We are hated. Very few of us knew it. Even fewer knew why. How does our government guard our country against individuals who are willing to sacrifice their lives in the name of hatred for our country?

It has also been proven that we are not as powerful and knowledgeable as we have played ourselves up to be. We have flaws. Those flaws were exploited and have undoubtedly taught our leaders a lesson. How much of a lesson they have learned can only be measured as time passes on. Will our security continue to increase, or will it eventually level off to the degree it was prior to Sept. 11?

This trauma to our nation's economic and global power status, however, was not the only sort of attack our nation suffered.

Our nation fell victim to a second enormous economic blow when corporate giant, Enron Corp., filed for the largest bankruptcy in history. This followed a twisted web of accounting deceit with the help of high-profile accounting firm, Anderson.

Many lives were destroyed, even lost, over the greed that overcame high-level management at Enron. And because of their mistakes, the way businesses are regulated will never be the same.

What can we do to prevent further damage to our nation? Think. It sounds trite, but knowledge truly is power. Learn what you can about everything you can; both positive and negative. The more informed you are, the better capable you will be to handle difficult situations that may arise.

In Case of Emergency: 9-1-1 or 9/11?

It was some years ago when I was taught about the miracle of 9-1-1. Sure, I was taught me stop, drop & roll. The most important piece of advice that was taught to me was in case of emergency you were to call the universal emergency number: 9-1-1, whether it was a fire in your house, an accident at your friend's house or a stranger at your door. It would be your safety, your protection and your life.

Unfortunately, in recent months, I have grown to discover the true meaning behind 9-1-1 and 9/11. When we need help, what should we think of first 9-1-1? However, is it to be the first thing that comes to mind in the event of an emergency? In fact, we are close. We should not think of 9-1-1 in an emergency but of 9/11—the worst day in United States history.

On Sept. 11, 2001, a new day of infamy, jealous, ignorant, and soulless beings that call them-

selves humans threw away the value of human life to instigate a self-proclaimed "holy war." That day will no doubt live with all Americans until eternity and beyond. That day lit a fire in my head. That day presented a new meaning of emergency and tragedy.

Ironically, the date of the catastrophic events is 9/11. Many compared and expressed curiosity into the coincidence of the numerals involved. I, on the other hand, philosophically compared the two. Was it really a coincidence? Probably, but the underlying tones of death, destruction and tragedy really came full circle for me that day. The tragic events in New York City at the World Trade Center and in Washington, D.C., at the Pentagon showed what real emergency and true tragedy are. I have looked at the bumps and bruises I have received while working at Jewel for about a year and a half. These

"injuries" include a permanent scar when I cut myself with a box cutter and discovered that my skin has a thickness. So, was that a real tragedy? Were precious lives lost? Sure, I left a quarter inch gash in my left forearm, but there was nothing tragic about that.

Surely you must be thinking, "Why the hell is this guy comparing Sept. 11 to a cut he got at work?" True, they both seem in different leagues apart from each other, but what I thought was an emergency turned out to be nothing, allowing me to finish my eight-hour shift.

Please think about the lives lost on Sept. 11. Be thankful that a tragedy like that didn't directly affect you. You didn't lose a friend or family member. "Emergencies" happen every day but does it compare to the emergency of Sept. 11.

Matt Sheehan

Student learns outside of classroom, too

This school year was the first of two years for me, after trying out of University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign experience and failing miserably. I didn't know what to expect from a junior college, but I really didn't have much of a choice. Here are some things I learned during my first year at JJC.

1. A lot of people have a lot of growing up to do.
2. There are teachers who care, and some who don't. Make sure you do some research on the instructors before you take their classes.
3. Smokers will keep standing at

the entrance ways no matter how many signs get put up saying go away, no matter how many people give them dirty looks and no matter how many stories there are about...people getting \$75 tickets from campus police.

4. You've got girls who just rolled out of bed sitting next to girls who look like they took two hours to get ready to go to class. Go figure.
5. Race doesn't seem to be much of an issue here, unless you try changing the channel of the t.v. on the bridge.
6. The food in the cafeteria isn't that bad.

7. Parking for J-building SUCKS! No. Not everyone has made the transition from high school to college. Cliques won't get you very far in life.

8. Having older people in classes makes us realize just how clueless even a 30-year-old woman can be.

10. And finally coming back here next year won't kill you; it will only make you stronger.

Buy the ticket, take the ride, see you next fall.

Jason Baloun

Letter to the editor

Student praises security efforts, requirements more help on campus

I have been working as a student worker at JJC's main campus for about a year. From the experiences that I have encountered, the police department needs more police officers and CSAs. The officers that we have now are overworked, but they always give 110 percent to make the college safe even when they are tired.

It appears that the administration is preventing the department from expanding and therefore our safety is in jeopardy. The message is being sent that the administration doesn't care about the safety of the students and workers.

-Missy student/student worker

Administrative response to security efforts on campus

Since this issue of the Joliet Junior College Blazer will be the last of the 2001 - 2002 academic year, the administration was provided with the opportunity to respond to another letter written by Missy student/student worker included in this issue. We appreciate this chance to respond now since the next issue will not be produced until September 2002.

Missy paid the officers employed by Joliet Junior College a great compliment by saying that, "They always give 110 percent to make the college safe even when they are tired." These officers and the rest of the staff that make up the Campus Police Department certainly enjoy hearing that the work that they do is appreciated.

Last semester the administration sought the support of the Board of Trustees in having an outside entity review public safety issues and the entire JJC Campus Police Department. The purpose of this request was to provide the administration and the Board with the very best professional review of the department possible. The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) dispatched a Loaned Executive Management Assessment Program (LEMAMP) Team to the College for the purpose of conducting an exhaustive study. This LEMAMP Team arrived on campus on Feb. 3, 2002, and spent four days conducting the fact-finding portion of their study. The members of this team interviewed faculty, stu-

dents, staff, members of the community, local law enforcement officials and others while conducting their research. The team also studied college budgets, departmental and Board policies, and numerous other documents to further understand the workings of the department.

The findings of the LEMAMP Team were provided to the administration last week. A LEMAMP Task Force has been developed for the purpose of reviewing all of the findings and recommendations of this study. The task force will meet next week to begin this review. Membership on this task force includes students, faculty, staff, representatives from all JJC collective bargaining units, and members of the Board of Trustees. The task force will study the reports 22 specific areas of research and make recommendations to the administration and the Board for their consideration. The task force will recommend priorities to be factored into the coming budgets.

With the help of this study safety concerns can be looked at in total. It should be noted that the administration began this review process in November 2001. The safety of our college community is very important to the administration and the Board of Trustees.

**Dr. Al Hardersen
Vice President for
Student Services
Joliet Junior College**

Letter Policy

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters.

Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at H-1015B.

**The contact information:
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Blazer recognized at conference

IJC's *Blazer* staff brought home several awards after going to the Illinois Community College Journalism Association annual conference at Moraine Valley Community College April 15.

In the Tri-weekly and Bi-weekly category, the *Blazer* placed second for Overall Excellence and second for the

Merit Award.

Individual winners placing first were Olivia Mata for a feature story, Kaye Butz for a single photo and Lisa Widowski for a sport feature. Placing second were Kaye Butz for a photo spread, Jessica Harvey for an arts story, Tim Daly for sport news and Scott Bessler for an editorial. Placing third were Jason Baloun

for an opinion article and Matt Packard for an arts story.

Other schools attending and placing at the ICCJA were College of DuPage, Moraine Valley, Black Hawk, Kishwaukee, Rock Valley, Illinois Community College, Illinois Valley, Malcom X, Lake Land, Morton College, Sauk Valley, and South Suburban.

Help Wanted:

Production Manager and/or Web Designer
For the *Blazer* in fall 2002 semester

Experience with the following programs is recommended, but not necessary:

QuarkXPress
Adobe PageMaker
Adobe Photoshop
Microsoft FrontPage

Some of the duties involved are:

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Editing photos

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If this is something that might interest you, please contact us at:

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Phone: 815-280-2313

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The *Blazer* is a student-run publication.

Opinions expressed in the Blazer do not necessarily reflect the views of the faculty or administration.

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Question of the Issue: What are your summer plans?



Brian Edwards

"I'm going to get a second job, so I can get my car repaired."



Joe Chindererle

"Parrying and getting out of this country."



Nickie Thurman

"Camping and working."



Chris Bluhm

"I'm going on vacation to North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Arizona."



Carl Anderson

"I'm going to Colorado to go rock climbing and snowboarding."



Chrissy Kozol

"I'm going to Austria, Germany and a Rocky Horror Picture Show convention. and I'm going to grow ra dishes"

Photos and copy by Jessica Harvey

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New student trustee; Lavon Pettis elected to represent student body

The new student trustee has been elected. Lavon Pettis' votes doubled that of her opponents. Donald Terry and William Byrley also ran for the student trustee position.

Pettis has been a student at JJC for two years. She is a psychology major and plans on attending UIC's Jane Adams School of Social Work in the fall of 2003. She is currently a member of the Black Student Union and was previously the Student Alliance President.

"I am interested in representing the student body's concerns and the concerns of a growing school and community," said Pettis.



PHOTO BY JESSICA HARVEY
Lavon Pettis was elected the new student trustee.

Manufacturing students recognized in Springfield

Congratulations to five Manufacturing students that represented Joliet Junior College at the VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) Illinois state level competition in Springfield during April 18-20th. Jacob Bumgarner, Peter Vescovi, Cameron Martin, Josh Higgins, and Spencer Adams competed against the best 15 Post Secondary Manufacturing students in the state of Illinois.

Spencer Adams, 2nd year Manufacturing student took a 3rd place capturing a bronze medal for the school. Their dedication, hard work and commitment to excellence is what keeps Joliet Junior College and the Manufacturing program ranked among the finest institutions in Northern Illinois for training.

Construction: The J and K Building entrances and the J-parking lot will be closed from May 13 until Aug. 15. Please use parking lots 3 and 4 instead. Golf Carts and drivers will be available at J and E building entrances for individuals with disabilities who need assistance. The JJC Bookstore and J-Building loading dock (scheduled deliveries only) will remain open during construction.

Multicultural Transfer Center: There will be three Navigating College: Minority Student & Parent Orientation Question & Answer Session on Wednesday, May 22, Thursday, June 20, and Tuesday, July 2, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in room J-0006. This event provides information about the opportunities available to minority students at JJC. For further information contact Angie Kayser Lutzbetak at 280-2449.

The Multicultural Transfer Center will also be hosting a College Fair on Friday, May 3, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the D and E Concourse. Many public and private Illinois colleges and universities will be present at this event.

Fine Arts Department: The Fine Arts Department will present a music students recital today at 11 a.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. The event is free and open to the public.

The JJC Student's Juried Exhibition will be on display in the Laura A. Sprague Gallery on the second floor of J-Building from April 8 until May 3. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

JJC Chorale's annual Spring Concert will be on Sunday, April 28, at 3 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. Refreshments will be served after the concert. For further information contact the JJC Fine Arts Department Office at 280-2223.

The annual **Spring Jazz Concert** will be on Friday, May 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. (Special guests will include the Lockport High School Jazz Band. This event is open to the public. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$4 for senior citizens, non-JJC students, JJC faculty and staff; \$2 for JJC students.

The **JJC Community Band's Spring Concert** will be on Sunday, May 5, at 3 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. This event is open to the public. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$4 for senior citizens, non-JJC students, JJC faculty and staff; \$2 for JJC students.

The **JJC Percussion Ensemble's Spring Concert** will be on Tuesday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. Special guests will include the Marya Yates Elementary School District from Matteson, Ill. Admission to this concert is free.

News Briefs

The Fine Arts Department will also present "Music... and a Taste" on Saturday, May 4, at 7 p.m. in the Main Dining Hall at the JJC main campus. Music sung by the JJC Chamber Singers will be the entertainment, and dessert will be provided by the JJC Fine Arts Department. An \$8 donation is requested and proceeds will be used for the Douglas F. Oxborrow Vocal/Choral Scholarships. For reservations contact the Fine Arts Secretary by Wednesday, May 1, at 280-2223.

Campus Police: The Rape Aggressions Defense Systems will hold two 12-hour courses in self-defense tactics to prevent sexual assault this month. The classes are open to women ages 16 and over. Classes are offered on four consecutive Fridays for three hours each class. Classes are on May 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in K-K (green building) located by parking A). Classes will also be offered on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for four hours each class. Classes are on May 14, 15 and 16 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in room C2018. There is a one-time fee of \$25 per person. Classes are limited to 10 people per class. For further information or to make reservations for a class, contact Joe Sikera at 280-2234.

International Students: Dr. Berta Arias is looking for volunteer "Holiday Hosts" for the 2002-03 academic year. The task of the "Holiday Host" would be to invite international students to spend time with your family during one of the long holiday periods at JJC such as Thanksgiving or Christmas. For further information please contact Dr. Berta Arias at 280-2270.

Veterinary Technology Club: The JJC Veterinary Technology Club will be hosting a spring dog wash on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the V-Building room V-1022. Prices for the dog wash are \$8 for small dogs (up to 25 lbs); \$10 for medium dogs (26 to 50 lbs); \$12 for large dogs (51 to 75 lbs); \$15 for X-large dogs (over 75 lbs). Nail Trims are \$5. Dogs also must be good natured, on a leash and have all their vaccinations.

Earth Week: There will be many events at JJC to promote Earth Week. The Eco-House of Horrors will be on display on April 22-26 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the bridge. Today there will be displays and cookies on the bridge. Tomorrow there will be multiple presentations on the bridge. Ken Woods will present "Solar Homes" from 11 a.m. until noon. Dr. Salim Diab, Professor of Chemistry at University of St. Francis will present "Energy Sources: Promises & Threats" from noon until 1 p.m. There will also be an "Eco Car" presentation from 1:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. outside. On Friday, April 26, from 11 p.m. until noon there will

be a film presentation on the bridge of *Help Save Planet Earth*. There will also be a Nature walk with John Griffiths. Those interested in the nature walk should meet on the bridge at 2:15 p.m.

Agriculture & Horticulture Sciences: The Heritage Tractor Adventure will briefly stop by the JJC main campus on Monday, June 10 with 150 antique tractors as a part of a three day tour along the 1 & M Canal. For further information contact 280-2272.

JJC's Dialogue on Race will present "One America in the 21st Century" on Friday, April 26 from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the bridge. This lecture will focus on German Americans. Please bring a German dish to share with others. For further information or if you would like to be a panelist please contact Ms. Johnnie Johnson at 280-2304 or Ms. Maria Cordova at 280-2306.

National Softball Tournament: JJC is hosting the National Softball Championship Tournament from May 16-18 at Inwood Sports Complex. Volunteers are needed for this event. Volunteers will be scheduled in four hour shifts on Thursday, May 16, and three hour shifts on Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18, starting at 11 a.m. All volunteers will receive a tournament t-shirt and free food. For further information or to volunteer please contact Kym McKay at 280-2776.

Centennial Commons Student Housing: The Centennial Commons Student Housing will host a High School Info night for high school seniors and parents on Thursday, April 25, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. There will also be free food, tours and prizes.

The Centennial Commons Student Housing will also be offering free food to students. Today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. the y will be serving free root beer floats and goodies in the cafeteria. On Tuesday, April 4, at 3 p.m. they will be serving free hot dogs and sodas at the baseball game. On Wednesday, May 1, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. they will be serving assorted sweets in the cafeteria.

Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences: There will be A Tribute to Women in the Celebration of Life series on Thursday, April 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the JJC main campus. From 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. there will be breast cancer awareness on the bridge. From 10:30 to 11:30 there will be a safety and self-defense demonstration on the bridge. From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. guest speaker Rhine McLain will speak in the Fine Arts Theatre. Then at 1 p.m. there will be a luncheon in the J-Building Cafeteria.

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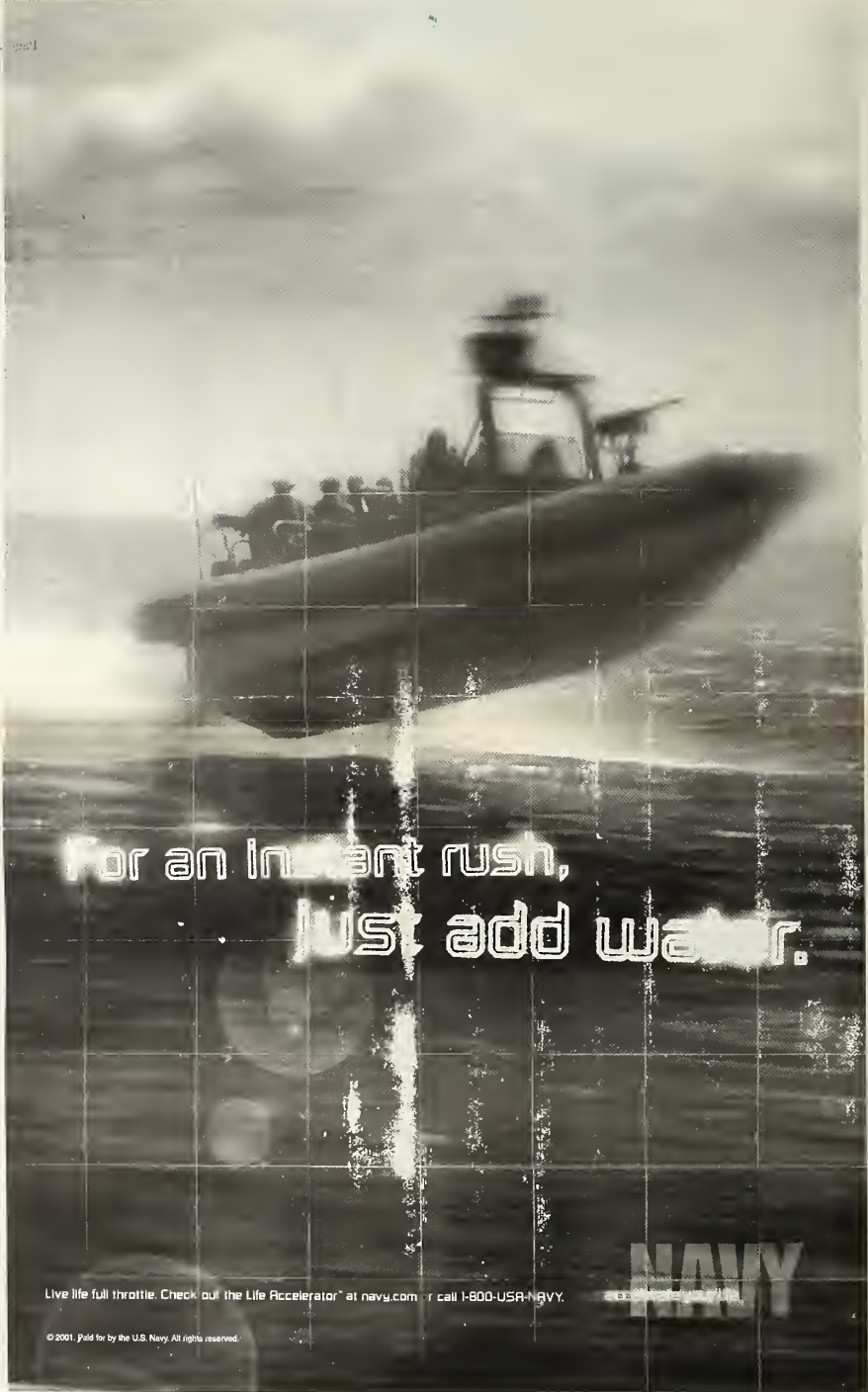
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2002 JJC Art Exhibit displays students creativity

by David Ashby

Currently on exhibit in the Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery are just a few of the best works of art completed by Joliet Junior College students.

Held annually is the JJC Art Students' Juried Exhibition, where various works of student art are placed on display. During the month-long exhibition, a

selected few are awarded the coveted Juror's Award.

On April 16, 10 students were awarded the Juror's Award for their artwork, as well as \$100 provided by the JJC Foundation. The awards were contributed by John and Laura Kingsbury and Dr. Gamil Arida, and presented by Walt Zaida.

Of the 273 entries entered in this year's exhibition, 49 were

picked by the Fine Arts Department for public display. Paintings (acrylic, oil, pastel), charcoal drawings, photographs, jewelry and ceramics are just a few of the numerous forms of art represented at this year's exhibition. Jane Haley and Jean Janssen, professors of Art at Kankakee Community College, were selected as the jurors for the chosen works.

"I always like judging Joliet art because there is always so much thought and creatively placed into the students' work," stated Haley.

The JJC Art Students' Juried Exhibition began in the early 1980s.

In response to this year's exhibition, art instructor and gallery director Joe Milosevich stated that "the quality of this year's artwork is excellent."

The student artwork is open

to the public in the Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery on the second floor in J-building (right across from the elevators) until May 3, 2002. The gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Many of the works are currently on sale. For more information about the 2002 JJC Art Exhibition, contact Joe Milosevich, K-0006, (815) 280-2423 or (815) 280-2223.



PHOTO BY KAYE BUTZ

English teacher Julie Penlon checks out the art at the JJC art exhibit.



PHOTO BY KAYE BUTZ

Dorothy Deichert- Purple Passion Flower- Oil

Winners of the 2002 Juror's Awards

Name	Artwork	Form of Art
Thomas E. Bass	Mr. And Mrs.	Ceramic
Nichol Brunkman	Self portrait and Trapped	Both Acrylic
Dorothy Deichert	Purple Passion Flower	Dil
Stephen Dunne	Organic Abstraction 001	Oil
Adam Farcus	Irreparable Damage	Mixed Media
Renee B. Harrison	Swinging	Computer Generated
Christine Kozol	Confessions of a Disco-bitch	Computer Generated
Dr. Sandra Morris-		
Goodspeed	Untitled	Reticulation, Sterling Silver
Holly Swanson	Untitled	Pastel
Ben Ward	Self-portrait	Charcoal

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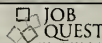
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Summer concert series has a little something for everyone

by Jason Baloun

Spring and summer are upon us and that means several things: warmer weather, girls wearing their summer outfits, and a brand new concert season. What follows is a listing of major concerts that have been announced, and a brief synopsis of why you should go to them. I'm sure there will be many more tours announced in the following weeks, so save up your money and enjoy.

May 8, Motorhead & Morbid Angel, House of Blues

• If you respect metal, you have to have some appreciation for Motorhead. They've been doing their thing for longer than most of us have been alive, and it could be one of their last outings.

May 11 Down, House of Blues

• What happens when you take two part Pantera (Philvocals, Rex-bass), one part Corrosion of Conformity (Pepper-guitar) and some other musicians from other bands? Throw it in the oven and out comes a heavy metal super-group. The show will sell out fast, but

you'll have your chance to see them on the second stage at Ozfest.

May 18 Jamboeze 2002 Tweeter Center

• The all day concert features: Kid Rock, who really should have been forced back to his trailer park by now; Billy Corgan w/ Zwan. I guess there is life after Smashing Pumpkins; Tenacious D. Funny guy Jack Black will be doing his best to make you laugh; Hoobastank, probably another one-hit wonder; The Strokes, a very promising band from the streets of New York; and a few other acts just to round out the day. Make sure to bring your sunscreen and lots of cash.

May 29 Goo Goo Dolls Riviera Theater

• After four CD's they're still playing the same song. If you like it, go see them.

June 1 Sammy Hagar/David Lee Roth Tweeter Center

• This is a strange event in music history, since both men have at one point in time been the lead singer for Van Halen, and they hated each other for a long

time. They will each get about an hour and a half of stage time, and the backstage fist-fights should be fun.

June 5 Green Day & Blink 182 Tweeter Center

• I'm sure lots of people care about this, so have fun.

June 23 Poison, Cinderella, Winger Tweeter Center

• Tinley Park will be under attack by these 80's hair-metal bands. It should be entertaining. Make sure to bring your lighters because the ballads will be flowing all night long.

June 28 Nickelback & Jerry Cantrell Aragon

• Nickelback has become quite popular since the release of their second CD. I guess a few good things come from Canada. Jerry Cantrell was in Alice in Chains, and with the recent death of that band's lead singer, a reunion tour is now impossible. Cantrell's solo career is all fans of Alice in Chains have left to hold onto.

July 5 Korn, Dadsy, Puddle of Mudd TBA

• KORN IS BACK! The CD comes out on June 11

(Untouchables), and that's a good thing. No venue has been announced, but I think Allstate Arena is a safe bet.

August 10 Ozfest 2002 Tweeter Center

• Roughly 11 hours of metal mayhem, lots of angry disillusioned youth, and the sun boiling your blood. What a day. Here's the lineup: Mainstage- Ozzy Osbourne, System of a Down, Rob Zombie, P.O.D., Drowning Pool, Adema, Zakk Wylde's Black Label Society, Second Stage- Down, Hatebreed, Meshuggah, and several other bands who will be on a rotating schedule.

August 24 The Who & Robert Plant Tweeter Center

• Rock and Roll legends playing in your backyard. Chances to see acts like this don't come along that often. The people who made great music, and continue to influence younger generations, deserve our respect. The ticket prices are a little high, but it will be a history lesson in what music really is.

These are the major shows you can look forward to this year. Most of the tickets are already on sale, so don't waste any more time. Remember that when you go to these shows everybody just wants to have a good time. Be safe, be smart, and get ready to rock.

DID YOU KNOW

Your Student Alliance/Student Government track record for the year consisted of the following:

- obtaining an office on the north end of the bridge H1015 at extension 6608.
- setting up our office with computers and reprographic capabilities. We purchased three additional computers for the Cyber Cafe.
- instituting two express computers for the A-building and T-building Kiosk.
- instituting two new express computers for the North Campus, to be installed in the summer. (Express computer systems are the E-mail checking stations).
- purchasing a bridge sound system for events on the bridge
- purchasing two new computers for student use in front of 1015A, our office on the bridge. This system is a wireless system and will allow students to check E-mail, surf and do web-registration from the bridge.
- the rewriting of the code of conduct of JJC.
- holding positions on the

Hearing Board (Code of Judicial Conduct Violations).

- we held positions on several intra-college committees (ie Pepsi Grant, TPC-Technology Programming Committee, Code of Conduct under the Direction of Pattie Fine (Dean of Student Development), ADA, Academic Standards, Allocations, Safety and Security, Marketing, Student Activities Programming under the Direction of Anissa Jones (Director of OSA).

- supporting and developing the nationally recognized "Vagina Monologues".

The Student Alliance/Student Government meets every Thursday at 3 p.m. on the north end of the bridge H1015. Should anyone be interested in attending or being part of the Student Alliance, please E-mail ajones@jcc.edu or contact us at (815) 280-6608.

Don Terry
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Dear Mandy

Readers ask Mandy questions pertaining to dating, style, and confidentiality.

Note to the readers:

As you can tell we didn't have many questions this time. I'm assuming it was due to spring break and that finals are coming. It appears that these must be the reasons, due to the many sleep starved caffeine craving studying maniacs roaming our campus. Anyway, enjoy and get some sleep. Finals will soon be here.

Dear Mandy-

Over spring break I went to visit my grandma, I know it sounds lame but I did. My grandma was having work done on her house and I kind of hooked up with one younger worker. As spring break came to an end, he told me he loved me and promised to call. It's been two weeks and he hasn't called. What do I do?

In need of repairs

Dear In need of repairs-

STEP AWAY FROM THE PHONE. He is not going to call you nor did he ever have any intentions of doing so. Face it, you've been "screwed, hampered, and nailed." You were his spring break fling and nothing more.

If you're really strung out over him, then give him a call. Be brave, you are allowed to call. Otherwise, there's an old saying that goes "It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."

HOROSCOPES

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

Put your mind towards solving a problem that has been ignored too long — like what is the most effective method for keeping belly-buttons clean?

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Certain things should be left undone. Your zipper isn't one of them!

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Someone will be opening doors for you this week, but don't worry — you won't have to tip prison guards.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

You won't be able to shake the eerie feeling you've had deja vu before.

Virgo (August 23 - Sept. 22)

I'd suggest you clear your mind, but that would be redundant...

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

This is a good week to practice what you preach. But if you're not a preacher, then don't worry about it.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Try to get a look at the "big picture." Those IMAX movies are great!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

A friend will return a favor, because it turns out she didn't want it after all.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

There's no room to hold grudges! Not unless you get the person next to you to move over.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will make people squirm, today. Surprisingly, some of them will show remarkable talent at squirming.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)

Stay home today, with the curtains drawn and the door locked. Trust me on this one.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

Look at all sides of the issue, but then put it back on the table so others in the waiting room can enjoy it too.

Six Feet Under HBO series

by Jennifer Graves

Death has a new face thanks to the drama series on HBO, *Six Feet Under*. The series earned two Golden Globe Awards as well as many nominations in its critically acclaimed first season.

The pilot episode took viewers into the lives of the Fisher Family of Los Angeles, independent business owners whose business is, well, death.

The ensemble cast of award-winning actors and actresses tackle daily life in a funeral home, yet each episode gives us a glimpse into the lives of someone who has recently passed away. Every episode begins with the death of someone unrelated to any of the characters, yet by the end, the show has taken you on a roller coaster of twists and turns that intertwine into the Fisher family and their loved, or not so loved ones.

The writing for the show pushes the limits in a way that only HBO can. In the first season alone, the story line included plots about Nate, the elder brother, and his emotionally estranged girlfriend; David, the middle

brother who admitted he was gay and came out to his family, friends and church. The plot surrounding David has caused the most stir as never before has homosexuality been portrayed like it is on this show. The comic relief comes in the form of the women of the Fisher clan, Claire and her mother Ruth. Claire opens the pilot episode doing crystal mesh and has to go to the hospital high to grieve with her family. She is cynical, darkly funny and portrays the American teen that has grown up in a funeral home in a sarcastic, often humorous way. Ruth, the mother, had spent her life giving to her husband and family. With the recent death of her husband, however, she begins the quest to find her own identity among all the others.

Nate's girlfriend, Brenda Chenoweth, played by actress Rachel Griffiths, gives us the impression that she is seemingly normal, but her world is rocked by her devotion to be mentally unstable, bi-polar brother.

Each sibling as well as the

mother still have a relationship with their father through their vivid imaginations where the deceased elder Fisher speaks and interacts with each character.

Obstacles changed in the series premiere of the second season for each character. The show promises to take you into the lives of this family like never before. Each character faces challenges and deals with the decisions that we all have to make about aspects of our lives.

Six Feet Under was a breakthrough hit, with season two guaranteed to continue to push limits and boundaries in the story line.

Airing Sunday's on HBO at 8 p.m. CST, *Six Feet Under* captivates the attention of the audience for one hour, with encores played throughout the week. After each episode viewers can also go to HBO.com and see the "wake" for that episode, which gives you behind the scenes footage and information about that week and previous episodes. Let the chilling opening music fascinate you, while you watch death like you've never seen it before.

Music Review by Jason Baloun

Megadeth goes out with a bang



Megadeth
Rude Awakening

CD Ratings by Jason Baloun

**** Skip class and go buy it

*** Buy it at a later date

** Find someone who has it and copy it

* Find someone who has it and laugh

As most of you know, Megadeth is no more. Dave Mustaine (lead singer, rhythm guitarist) injured his band a few weeks ago and called it quits. What that means is that *Rude Awakening* may very well be the last official Megadeth release, and what a way to end it.

Rude Awakening contains 24 live tracks spread out over two CDs. You can tell that they took the time to select songs that span

their entire career. A few tracks stick out more than others, but each song reminds you of how much Megadeth has improved over the years.

The second disc contains the more familiar songs like, "Almost Honest," "Sweating Bullets," "Symphony of Destruction" and "Peace Sells." When played live, Megadeth makes these songs into their own living/breathing creature. Each song becomes a distinct entity, and you can feel the energy.

Mustaine's vocals are dead on, and the music is as good as it can be. The best part of this disc is that if you've ever been to a Megadeth show, listening to this CD will take you back to that experience. You can feel the energy of their live performance, and since they won't be touring again, we'll have to make sure that memory remains.

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What's hot and what's not: a girl's fashion guide to summer 2002

By Molly McKeon

Well Ladies, its already mid-April and summer is fast approaching, whether you are ready for it or not. With summer comes of course your share of

parties, road trips, and for the unlucky few, summer school, but summer also gives us girls a chance to "warm up" to some hot summer trends popular in the fashion world. But since every

girl knows, that what's popular one day is often outdated the next, so tune in to what's hot and what's not by following this summers "must have" list below.

What's Hot

- Denim skirts ranging from the knee to the ankle.
- 1960's inspired shirts, belts and accessories.
- Flip flop sandals in bright, vibrant colors like pink and yellow.
- Capri pants.
- Floral prints.
- Straw hats with matching bags.
- Rock Star inspired sunglasses.
- Fashion hats.
- Sun Screen to protect your skin from the sun's harmful rays.
- Be yourself! Be creative with your styles and wear them in a way that reflects who you are.

What's Not

- Denim overalls
- Shirts with sayings such as "Rock Star" or "Cutie."
- Extremely high platform sandals.
- Army Prints
- Logo shirts
- Bandanas
- Tie Dye
- Sun-scorched skin

The Rock cooks up goofy fun in 'The Scorpion King'

By Matt Sheehan

Finally, Matt has come back to the IJC Blazer. Now let Matt say this. He will layeth the smacketh down all your candy asses! If ya smell? What Matt...is...cookin'?

Well, a man can dream, can't he? Anyways, World Wrestling Federation superstar The Rock,

the socceress, and she predicts that he can defeat the ruler and bring freedom to the people. So that means he's the people's champ? Okay, anyways, so we meet Balthazaar (my man Michael Clarke Duncan), who hates Maythayis and his people but eventually helps Maythayis.

When. Okay, do you got that? Now, here's the problem-



this film contains phrases and words that would not have been used 4,000 years ago in ancient Egypt unless someone from 1997 took a time machine 5,000 years back and taught everybody how to speak that way, with

generations after inheriting them. For example, what does Maythayis call a camel? "My ride." Right.

The movie looks at the part of life of The Rock's character that was introduced in *The Mummy Returns*. Now, in *The Mummy Returns*, the Scorpion King was a major, evil, bad ass. In *The Scorpion King*, he is the last of a dying ancestry and is the most wholesome, good-hearted fellow on the screen. That and he carries a big sword and likes to shoot people with his bow and arrow, but that's beside the point.

Fortunately, *The Scorpion King* does serve up mostly goofy fun that makes the film so bad that it's good. Then again, the film also has points where it's so bad that it's horrible. Overall, though, the film does have some entertainment value. A small one but entertainment nonetheless. However, I do agree with some people who say that this is the wrong vehicle for The Rock to make his breakthrough, but only to an extent. The film does show him as the potential new Ab-nuld, corny jokes and all. It is a nice introduction to the film world, but Rock, choose your scripts more carefully from now on.

The point of the film is to show how much of a radical change the Scorpion King goes through from ruler of the millions (and millions!) of his followers to a vile, evil conqueror. Now, that's all fine and dandy, but *The Scorpion King* does not explain how he became the super-duper bad guy in *The Mummy Returns* from this good guy in *The Scorpion King*.

If you smell what I am cooking... 1/2 star

The film has Maythayis (The Rock) hired to kill a socceress (the very sexy Kelly Hu) who has helped a man rise to tyrannical power. Through her visions, this man conquers all by knowing what happens before hand. Maythayis soon falls in love with

For more reviews, including the new *Changing Lanes*, and a summer movie preview, check out Matt's Movies & TV on the web at <http://www.cbc.com/movies914jic/>

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Living with Ana and Mia, pro eating disorder websites

By Olivia Mata

"If you aren't thin then you aren't attractive." This is just one of the AnaCommandments (Ana is a pro anorexia website and Mia is a pro bulimia website), and unfortunately one of the generalizations that many Americans believe. It seems that everywhere we look, we see advertisements containing a thin model or a new found miracle pill to shed unsightly pounds. It is difficult to even define the point at which dieting turns into an eating disorder. In a predominately look and weight conscious society, it is difficult to be unaffected by the pressures to be thin and beautiful, since they are so often promoted as a pair. Under such societal pressure, it isn't hard to see why the disease of anorexia and bulimia plague so many women and men.

Approximately 90-95 percent of anorexia nervosa sufferers are women and girls. Since eating disorders are considered to be such hush-hush subject matter, we naturally assume that those affected are people we don't know, or people exclusively with mental and emotional problems. In reality, anorexics and bulimics "tend to be women who are perfectionists, goal achieving. They are the good students, the good child, the good mate the good friend", according to Holly Hoff director of programs for the National Eating Disorders Association. Those who have eating disorders are inclined to successfully hide their problem behind the persona/image of control and confidence. Detections of such ailments may not always be as obvious as one might think.

Whether we would like to admit it or not, we are generally focused on our weight and strive for a "better body." In fact, "75 percent of women and 54 percent of men say they are unhappy with their physical appearance." But at what point does this unhappiness become an unhealthy fixation? That is something we may never know. People that suffer from anorexia and bulimia do not believe that they are harming themselves, but that they are actually bettering themselves in the long run. Victims of eating disorders are disillusioned into thinking that if they are thin, they will be loved, more successful, and better received.

The mass media has done its share to contribute enough to the misconception that "thinner is better." Sadly the prevalence of pro-ana and pro-mia (pro anorexia and pro bulimia) web sites are just another source of inspiration for a person battling an eating disorder. The success of these sites lies in their anonymity and its dependable support and assistance in bingeing, purging and starvation. While many internet service providers (such as Yahoo)

have done away with these types of sites due to their potentially harmful content, many still exist, however, strategically hidden. Often the key words that these sites are hidden under are so obscure that they are very hard to trace.

A number of dead-end searches eventually led me to these highly criticized pro anorexia/pro bulimia web sites. It was immediately apparent what the big deal was. The site I researched contained haunting pictures of both women and men with protruding hipbones and clearly defined clavicles, which are meant to serve as a means of "thinspiration." This sight also had tips of distraction to channel hunger into other directions, such as cleaning out a toilet bowl to make one lose their appetite.

A particular line of the Ana Creed said, "I believe that I am the most vile, worthless, and useless person ever to exist on this planet, and that I am totally unworthy of anyone's time and attention." It was disturbing to think that people would actually consider themselves to be disgusting and worthless. Perhaps even more upsetting is the idea that this is part of a universal creed for anorexics and bulimics, which is encouraged to be recited in times of weakness.

Although our society is becoming more conscious of the signs and symptoms of anorexia and bulimia and are growing in concern for the victims of these diseases, those who live with these demons continue to feel alone. Pro anorexia and bulimia web sites serve as a network of support for people who share the same objective: to lose weight by any means necessary. People that struggle with these diseases alienate themselves from those that do not support their habits.

This is exemplified in the Ana Creed: "I believe that other people who tell me differently must be idiots. If they could see how I really am, they would hate me almost as much as I do."

The results of all the affirmations, tips, rules, and "thinspiration" pictures that these sites provide are distortion, and detrimental to the health of a human being. The personification of anorexia and bulimia by those who suffer from them is alarming. A woman living with anorexia wrote, "It is so great to feel lean and pure and clean. That's why I'm promoting Anorexia, although I don't think it should be labeled a 'disease.' It's not like that. Ana gives control, comfort, beauty. Everything that a girl could ask for." Another wrote, "Now I hate Mia and want Ana more than anything."

Such references give anorexia and bulimia a very real and humanistic quality, further explaining the severity of the demons that suffering men and women live with. These diseases

are so much more than just an illness. They are uncontrollable fixations that take on a lives of their own. It is important to be more conscious of the symptoms of anorexia and bulimia, as well as sympathetic to those who are consumed by them. While it is nearly impossible for someone on the outside of an eating disorder to understand the capacity and severity of the disease, it is not difficult to provide support and comfort to someone who feels entirely alone. As a section of the Ana Creed states, "I believe in Hell, because sometimes I think that I am living in it." This profession is enough to prompt one to become aware, objective, and supportive, remembering to lend an ear and not pass judgement.



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Information booth on main campus provides security

by Amy Pedersen

In response to recent disturbances at the JJC main campus the campus police have installed a new booth in the main concourse. The booth, which is open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Friday, serves as both a security booth and an information center.

Before the booth was installed, there were up to two disturbances a day. The disturbances included an excess of noise and just plain horseplay, said Diane Schook, the campus community service assistant. Now that the campus police have made their presence known, the disturbances have greatly decreased, said Schook.

The campus security did,

however, close an area of the bridge one day in April from 1 p.m. until 1:45 p.m. The campus security had responded to several complaints from other departments that the noise was excessive. Several warnings were issued, but the noise and disruptions did not desist. The campus police decided to close the area to send a message to students and others causing the disturbances that they were serious and would not tolerate this type of behavior.

The booth does not just serve a security booth, it also supplies information about the school. Several departments helped out by supplying the booth with information and brochures about their department. Schook said that the booth has a little bit of



PHOTO BY KAYE BUTZ
Chad Nelson works the information booth answering questions about the school and is also a security booth

everything, including booklets that provide registration information. These help students as well as newcomers who are not familiar with the campus. People who enter on that side of the building can receive direction and infor-

mation about the campus.

"It works out for the best," Schook said. She said that since the booth has been installed the noise and complaints have greatly decreased.

Agriculture expands program to a new location in Joliet

by Carrie Roderick

Joliet Junior College's Agriculture program is not only one of the best in the state, but it is also one of the best in the nation. The National Association of Agricultural (NAAE) recently named the program a Post-Secondary All-Star Team.

JJC was one of just six programs in the nation to receive this acclaim. JJC was one of only two community colleges to receive this honor.

In 1954 JJC originated Illinois' first post-secondary agriculture transfer program, and 10 years later, the first occupational agriculture program. The program is one of the largest in the state with full-time faculty and support staff.

Supporters of the program have formed a committee to make the program even better by using a new piece of land as the site of an Agricultural Education and Event Complex. The complex will be built on the college's 30-acre property on Laraway Road.

JJC Foundation Board of Director member and JJC alumnus, John H. Weindorf, Sr., recently donated the property. The facility will be a 22,000 square-foot, climate-controlled laboratory for JJC's Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences Department.

The department's enrollment has more than 300 full-time students and 700 part-time students.

According to the JJC community relations press release, Agriculture Associate Professor Brad Angus Sr. said, "All of the animal science students have to travel to farms sometimes an hour and a half away in a college van or rental van. Having this facility would save a considerable amount of money as well as time for the instructors and students. It's very difficult to work a teaching class schedule around lab schedules. This facility would mean a much better learning experience."

The complex is planned as a T-shaped structure consisting of one central arena and two adjoining wings, creating 28,500 square feet of space under one roof. The building will be divided into four major sections: Classroom/Office Area, Arena, Exhibition Wing and Animal Education Wing. The complex will serve as livestock facilities for the animal sciences, swine confinement and wet tech programs.

The committee hopes to raise \$1,800,000 and has received \$797,466 in gifts and pledges. Anyone interested in donating to the campaign should contact Donna Stankiewicz, executive director of the JJC Foundation, at (815) 280-2353 or dstankiewicz@jjc.cc.il.us.

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Holistic Wellness Week provides great stress releavers

by Jennifer Graves

Holistic Wellness Week celebrated its sixth annual anniversary during the week of April 8 through the 12. There were several seminars as well as the 7th annual Wellness Fair.

Holistic Wellness Week is held in an effort to offer students insight into the benefits of Holistic Wellness. The acronym NOSEPIES is given to stand for what holistic wellness actually is: Nutritional, Occupational, Social, Environmental, Physical, Intellectual, Emotional and Spiritual are all the different areas of life that holistic wellness encompasses.

Pam Dilday, Coordinator of Student Activities & Holistic Wellness at JUCO, and Peers Promoting Wellness, organized the week and all activities that took place.

The activities included seminars that took place on April 9 and April 11. These seminars attracted a wide variety of students and faculty. Each year, new seminars are added. According to Pam Dilday, she and the other volunteers who sponsor the week try to keep the well-liked seminars, also. The most popular seminars dealt with Energy Enhancement & Better Health and The Mind, Body Connection & Stress. Other seminars dealt with a variety of topics including the Avon Breast Cancer Walk, alternative approaches to healthcare, Alumni Networking, Spring Training Kickoff, and the age-old debate of whether women are from Mars and men are from Venus.

The Wellness Fair held on the concourse April 10 featured many vendors and professionals offering holistic services ranging from massages to credit counseling.

Several agencies offered help writing resumes and had specialists on hand to counsel students and faculty with occupational questions.

Nursing students from JUCO's nursing program provided free blood pressure screenings. Body Work specialists gave massages to many.

Representatives from Mary Kay participated, offering advice on skin care and SPF's.

Mooney paid by vendors to be at the fair is put toward the Holistic Wellness Scholarship Fund. This Scholarship is awarded annually to one student who exhibits wellness in every aspect listed in NOSEPIES.

The feedback from students and faculty is positive. Some faculty even brought classes to attend the seminars and the fair. The office also sponsors many games and events throughout the year that are popular with students.

As wellness catches on, many people focus only on the physical aspects of "wellness". The week is designed to bring attention to every aspect of life, giving students and faculty

healthy productive ways to bring holistic wellness into their lives.

Of the six years the event has been held at JUCO, coordinator Pam Dilday said, "This is one of the best years."

Upcoming Events out of the Office of Holistic Wellness are Mocktail Bar on April 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside "D" building, weather permitting. Also, during finals week, the office will be having a Stress Relief Day. It will be held May 3 on the bridge.

Blazer staff wishes everyone good luck in their finals



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM DILDAY
During wellness week, nurses performed free blood pressure tests on many students and staff members.

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The Lake Shore Campus on Chicago's North Side
Inset (above): Loyola's Water Tower Campus,
off North Michigan Avenue

9th annual poetry reading draws writers to the bridge

by Kristin Hulva

Poetry for many people can be therapeutic, a hobby, or as Ted Thompson from the English department said, "...a part of my preaching."

A poetry reading was held April 18 on the bridge at JJC's main campus and was open to anyone wanting to read their favorite poems written by others

or poems they had written themselves.

Thompson, a professor in the English department, read poems that expressed humorous points to sometimes-serious subjects. One of the poems he read by Thomas Hardy titled *The Darkling Thrush* addressed the worries people have about what the future holds. He also read a poem to the group that he wrote after 9/11.

Each poem the individual would read, rather intentional or not, reflects something about their profession, their hobbies, or their feelings on certain issues to the audience. For example, Andy Neill a teacher of Ecological Conservation, read a poem titled *The Late Show* which was about a fish that times it reproduction at the tide. The significance of this fish, grunion, is that it is the only fish that impregnates on land.

"We are what she is," said Johnnie Johnson, program coordinator for JAM-SCEEP, during reading a poem that her sisters and her wrote for their mother on May 30, 1998.

Overall, there were seven people who took the opportunity to read poetry to the audience. Stacey Murphy, a professor in the English department, was the host of the ninth annual poetry reading. Because the poetry reading went so well, she plans on organizing another reading again next spring.

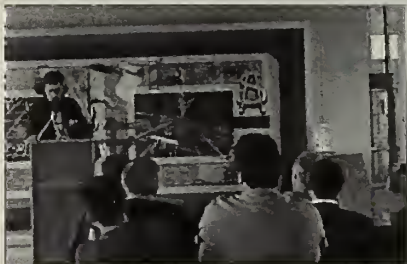


PHOTO BY KAYE BUTZ

Andy Neill, assistant professor of biology in the natural sciences department, reads some of his own poetry at the April 18 poetry reading for faculty, staff and students.

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JJC theater season goes out with a bang

by Jessica Harvey

The JJC Theatre season ended with a bang when the Fine Arts Department presented the *Miss Firecracker Contest* as the final play this school year.

The Miss Firecracker Contest, by Beth Henley, is the story of Camelle Scott, who became an orphan when she was eight and was adopted by her cousins in the Williams family. Camelle is now in her 20's, works as a fish-gutter at the local catfish packing plant and has been nicknamed "Miss Hot Tamale" by some of the locals. Camelle decides to enter "The Miss Firecracker Contest," which was the same beauty pageant that her cousin Elaine won years ago. Camelle feels that winning this beauty pageant would create an opportunity for her to escape her small Mississippi town.

There are other plots and key players drifting throughout the play as well. There is Camelle's eccentric boy cousin, Delmont, who has just arrived in town on a freight train. Not only has he been in a mental institute, but he

has also devised a plan to sell the Williams mansion to developers.

Camelle's cousin Elaine has also come to town because she has been asked to deliver the keynote address at this year's pageant.

While all of this is going on Camelle desperately wishes that Elaine will loan her the prize-winning red dress that she wore during the pageant that she won years ago. In desperation, Camelle has turned to the local seamstress, Popeye, for help. While Popeye has created award-winning dresses, unfortunately they've only been for huffings.

Camelle is determined to amount to something, and she will not let herself be distracted by the local boys. But then the carnival arrives in town, and Camelle's reunion with the smooth-talking Mac Sam threatens to derail her plans.

At first everyone is skeptical of Camelle winning the beauty competition, but they all cheer for her at the end. This is a fun, heartfelt play that everyone can enjoy.

Director- Nicki Blowers

Carnelle Scott- Alexa Schrock

Popeye Jackson- Katherine Brisnick

Elain Rutledge- Jessica Berkey

Delmont Williams- Rob Culp

Mac Sam- Derrick Trumbly

Tessy Mahoney- Christian Gertz

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Tennis team's hard work rewarded

by Kristin Hulva

The Joliet Junior College Women's tennis team will compete at the NJCAA national tennis tournament in College, Texas, May 3-10.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for these athletes to represent JJC at nationals," said tennis coach Tim Vandervall.

"The girls matured a lot during the season. It has showed (in their playing)," added Vandervall.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MASHA ROMADINA

The five girls on the tennis team, Masha Romadina, Mara Krizek, Shanel Daigler, Becky Newcomb, Diana Rodriguez and coach Tim Vandervall pose after a victory.

looking back at their season.

To qualify for nationals in Texas, the girls won the NJCAA Region IV tournament played at Rock Valley Community College.

The women's tennis team ended their regular season 5-9. This is a great accomplishment for this Division III team. These five girls only had two community colleges in their division, College of DuPage and Rock Valley Community College. This forced the girls to play four-year institutions during their regular season.

"Playing four-year institutions made us work harder as a team. It made us fight for each win," said freshman Diana Rodriguez.

Becky Newcomb, a freshman who is considering continuing her tennis career at Northern, said, "I think with us going to Texas it will bring us closer together as a team."

Vandervall agreed. "It is important to realize in this area, a team can still work hard and accomplish things... it gives them a chance to compete," said Vandervall.

Any girls interested in tennis for next season should contact Tim Vandervall at 280-2486 or rvanderv@jcc.il.us. The season will start about a week before the fall semester starts.

Baseball season ends victoriously

by Scott Bessler

The JJC Wolves baseball team increased their win record Saturday in a game against Rock Valley.

In the first game of this doubleheader, the Wolves reigned victorious with a 7-1 win. Steve Nielsen struck out six, while Kevin Boyd, Andrew Gallagher

and Mike Maher each had three hits, respectively.

The second game of the doubleheader saw yet another 11-0 victory for the Wolves. The two victories put the Wolves record at 11-30, and 5-3 in the N4C conference.

The Wolves play host to Harper College Saturday, April 27 at noon.

Soccer tournament a precursor to mens and womens fall teams

by Scott Bessler

With the announcement of the newest sport on campus, men's and women's soccer, the soccer club will be organizing an indoor soccer tournament to rally support and interest for the upcoming fall season.

The indoor soccer tournament will be held on Saturday, April 27 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. in the gym. "I hope to make this an annual event," said Kris Trillo,

head coach for the men's soccer team. Participation in the tournament is open to any team, with a maximum of eight teams. Each team is required to pay a fee of \$125 to participate and is guaranteed a minimum of three games. Individual trophies will be awarded to the winner. "With a men's soccer program beginning next Fall, we want to attract prospective student-athletes to JJC," said Trillo.

Lady Wolves softball team post ninth victory in doubleheader win

by Scott Bessler

The Lady Wolves posted their ninth victory for the season against Rock Valley in a doubleheader meet on Saturday. Anna Wallace pitched the win for the Wolves in game two.

The victory puts the Lady Wolves record at 9-13, and 3-5 in the N4C conference.

The Lady Wolves play at home, today, at 3 p.m. in a matchup against Moraine Valley Community College.

Athletes of the issue



Mike Maher

Mike Maher, a graduate of Joliet Catholic Academy, has created a niche for himself on the field. A 6-1 shortstop for the Wolves, Maher recently landed three hits in a Saturday match-up against Rock Valley, and victory for the Wolves. The JJC wolves continue their season in a Saturday home game against Harper College April 27 at noon.



Tara Walden

Freshman Tara Walden continues to aid in the Lady Wolves battle for victory. In a doubleheader matchup against Prairie State College on April 16, Walden, a 5-7 left-fielder from Reed Custer High School, recorded two hits each game. The Lady Wolves Prepare for their next home game match against Moraine Valley Community College today at 3 p.m.



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JJC seeks \$251 million to upgrade facilities

November referendum could provide money to pay for college expansion and maintenance

By Jessica Harvey

Last month the JJC board of trustees and college administration decided to put a referendum on the Nov. 5 ballot requesting \$251 million to improve the existing college campuses and construct additional facilities. A second question on the ballot will request a 2 cent increase in the tax rate for the school's Operations and Maintenance Fund. School board members feel that the referendum is necessary in order to better serve the rapidly growing JJC community.

"We recognize the fact that our district is growing, and to serve the students we need resources for today and the next 20 years," said Dr. Alan Hardersen, Vice President for Student Services.

The college district spans 1,442-square miles, which includes Will County and sections of six other surrounding counties.

"The college has experienced rapid growth in the past two years," said J.D. Ross, President of JJC.

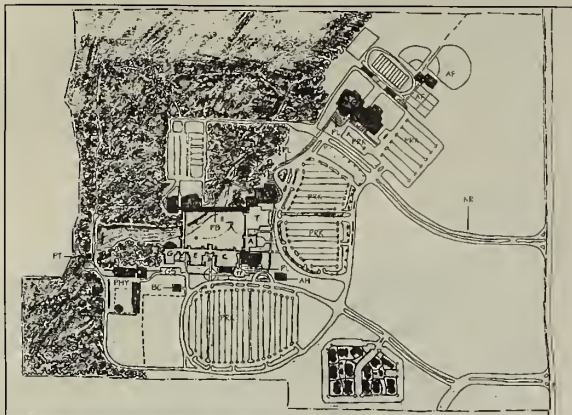
Ross explained that enrollment has increased by 13 percent from 1990-2000. However, during the 2001 fall semester, JJC grew by 6.6 percent compared to the fall 2000 semester. Even more astounding was the fact that during the 2002 spring semester, enrollment increased by over 12 percent.

High tuition costs and living expenses of four-year colleges may be another reason as to why enrollment is increasing. The average tuition at public Illinois universities is almost \$4,000 a year, and the cost of independent institutions is approximately \$12,000 a year.

However, tuition at JJC is significantly lower, only costing students approximately \$1,550 a year and according to the Illinois Community College Board statistics, community colleges account for 60 percent of all undergraduate students enrolled in Illinois public higher education.

"The college provides a reasonable training and educational experience that helps fuel the economy and the district," said Hardersen.

If the referendum passes, there will be many changes in store for JJC.



New Buildings:
 AH- New Ag/Horticulture Greenhouse Classroom
 BC- New Boiler/Chiller Facility
 CC- New Campus Center Facility
 GS- New General Store Building
 MGPA- New Physical Education/Fine Arts Center
 PT- New Precision Training Facility
 PB- New Enclosed Pedestrian Bridge
 PHY- New Physical Plant Complex

Site Improvements:
 AF- Relocate Existing Playfields and Support Facilities
 NR- New Road
 PL- New Pedestrian Plaza
 PRK- New Parking Lot

The Master Facility Plan outlines the improvements and additions that will be made to the JJC campuses. This eight-year plan was created to provide for the growth of buildings at JJC.

Additional satellite campuses would be built in different areas of the college's district to accommodate growing communities. These facilities would include a total of 48 new classrooms, three new science labs and three new computer labs.

The construction of new buildings will provide 59 classrooms, five computer labs, four specialty labs and one science lab.

The remodeling of existing buildings will create an additional 22 classrooms, three science labs,

two computer labs and six specialty labs.

Overall there are expected to be 129 classrooms, seven new science labs, ten new computer labs and ten new specialty labs.

As of now, the college has \$32 million of deferred maintenance projects that primarily affect the main campus, north campus and city center. Students are concerned about additional tuition hikes. If the referendum passes, it will not prevent a tuition increase at JJC. The \$251 million Master Facility Plan and the 2-cent increase for the Operations and Maintenance Fund are the only issues addressed on the referendum. The college plans to have no tuition increase in the 2003 fiscal year. However, a \$2 per credit

hour increase in the 2004 fiscal year and another \$2 per credit hour increase in the 2005 fiscal year are expected.

If the referendum passes, the owner of a \$100,000 home would have a tax increase of \$40.33.

Hardersen wants to stress the fact that this referendum wasn't just something that was thrown together overnight. He explained that the school board has been researching this project for the past two years. And if the referendum is passed, it will still be an additional two years before the first building is ready.

Ross emphasized the fact that this is the "first time in 25 years JJC has asked for a referendum."

Scholarship founded in honor of JJC student

Eric Leeson's legacy lives on through culinary arts grant

by David Ashby

The sudden death of 19-year-old Culinary Arts student Eric Leeson on July 26, 2001 was a shock to all who knew him. However, the prospective chef's legacy does not end there. Since his death last year both his colleagues in the Culinary Arts Department and his family have worked to keep Eric's legacy alive.

At the start of the 2002 spring semester, the sophomore-level students decided to start a scholarship named after their friend Eric. By working banquets and using the gratuities left by the customers from the newly opened Chef's Table, the students collected over \$1000 by the end of the semester.

"I feel it is really heart-warming that the students would do something like this," said Keith Von Hoff, instructor in the Culinary Arts Department.

When Eric's family heard that the students were working to establish a scholarship in the name of their son, they decided to help with the fund-raising. Scott and Nancy Leeson, Eric's parents, reached out to the local community and the food and hospitality industry for donations. The response was tremendous, and by April, his parents announced at the Classical 100 Scholarship Dinner that they had raised over \$9000. Combined with the \$1000 raised by the students, they had successfully earned the \$10,000 used to

create the Eric Leeson Culinary Arts Scholarship.

"To see a small idea created by a group of college students turn into a lifetime scholarship truly is amazing," said Mike McGreal, Chairman of the Culinary Arts Department.

The recipient of the scholarship is chosen by the Culinary Arts students. Leadership skills and dedication to the study of cooking and hospitality are some of the important qualities one must possess to earn the honor. Bradley Elton was chosen unanimously by his peers to be the first recipient of the scholarship.

Right before his death, Eric had achieved one of his dreams when he took a school-sponsored trip to Europe. According to McGreal, he had always

wanted to visit France. Eric dreamed of becoming a pastry chef and during the trip the group stopped off in Paris, where he was able to try out the many delectable and delicious French food to offer.

He also won many awards for his cooking while attending Lincoln-Way High School, where he was a member of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America.

Yet he is remembered most by those who knew him as a meticulous practical joker, who always had a snail on his face.

Though Eric Leeson may be gone, it is certain that because of the devotion and love from his friends and family, his name and legacy will live forever.

Blazer View

Expanding community brings college opportunities and problems

Bottom line: We need money to expand

As lifelong residents of the Joliet area, we here at the Blazer are astonished with the rapid development of the region and around Will County that is already affecting JJC.

According to the JJC Department of Institutional Effectiveness, the head count this semester is up 7 percent from the previous fall term. Also, credit-issuing per student has increased 10 percent, which means that on average, each student is taking 10 percent more credit hours than they did the following year.

Of course these alarming increases are unsurprising. According to the US Census Bureau, Will County has had a 6.8 percent increase in the population from April 1, 2000, to July 1, 2001. Surrounding counties like Grundy, Kane and Kendall are also seeing major population booms. In fact, Joliet alone is the third fastest growing city in the state of Illinois.

Rapid growth in a relatively small

area can be both good and bad. Take Joliet as an example. In the past 10 years two riverboat casinos have been built, as well as an enormous water park. In the past year, a minor league baseball team and a new water park have been established and both are now calling our local community home. These new attractions have brought money, jobs and national publicity to our once-small town. However, these institutions have also brought an increase in traffic, the need for resources and, of course, people.

Every year we witness our little town grow more and more into a big city, and every year the college follows suit. In addition, the skyrocketing tuition at most four-year Illinois universities is also adding to the enrollment explosion at JJC.

We here at JJC are already seeing the effects of this expansion. Anybody who was here during the first few weeks of school could see this in the parking lots. Unless you were lucky enough to arrive at school at 7am, you probably had to park on the grass.

There were 900 cars parked in the grass on the first day alone.

For these reasons and more, Joliet Junior College needs money to expand. The referendum on the Nov. 5 ballot that is designed to give the school \$251 million to expand is certainly a step in the right direction. The issue of limited parking space must also be addressed because if enrollment continues to climb, the parking will just get worse and worse every semester. The construction of more parking lots or a car-pool program are some of the possible solutions to this problem.

In our minds, Joliet Junior College is one of the best community colleges around. The school offers small class sizes, a superb faculty and a quality education. Yet to continue to provide these excellent qualities, the college needs money to expand with the rapidly developing community. For that reason, we here at the Blazer support the passage of the \$251 million referendum.



These maulbox cars may not be real, but the parking problem at JJC is

Photo by Jessica Harvey

Reflections: one year after attacks

Reporter recalls the 9-11 tragedies

By Tiffani Shippe

Do you remember where you were on Sept. 11, 2001? I remember where I was on the day America was attacked.

On that Tuesday morning I didn't have school, so I didn't have to wake up early. Yet for some reason I woke up early anyway. My mom was on the phone talking to my sister and she seemed upset. At the time I didn't know what was going on.

I turned on the news and saw the first plane hit. I thought that it was some surreal scene from a movie. I couldn't begin to fathom what had just happened. One of my friends called to see if I had heard anything, and if I was ok. Just because I wasn't in New York or Washington doesn't mean I wasn't affected by the tragedy.

My brother-in-law, who works for the government, was out of town and we didn't know where he was. I was in a state of shock; I couldn't understand how people could be filled with such hate.

On that day, Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001 terrorists tried to take our freedom, our hope and our lives. However,

they didn't succeed because they can never take our spirits.

As the one-year anniversary of that horrible day has come and gone,

On that day, Tuesday, September 11, 2001, terrorists tried to take our freedom, our hope and our lives. However, they didn't succeed because they can never take our spirits.

many people are reminded of the bad things that happened during that time. Many television stations broadcasted live from "Ground Zero" in New York, where they held memorial ceremonies honoring the men and women who lost their lives on that tragic day. Many cable stations, as well as radio stations, also did their part by playing interviews, showing concerts and some of the live footage from a year ago.

It seems sad that it took something of this magnitude, so tragic, to



The American flag flies tall and proud.

Photo by Jessica Harvey

unite this nation. It's so sad that it took a terrorist attack for people to realize that life is precious and that we should be thankful of one another.

In the wake of the Sept. 11 attack, I hope that people realize life isn't promised to us and to live each day to the fullest.

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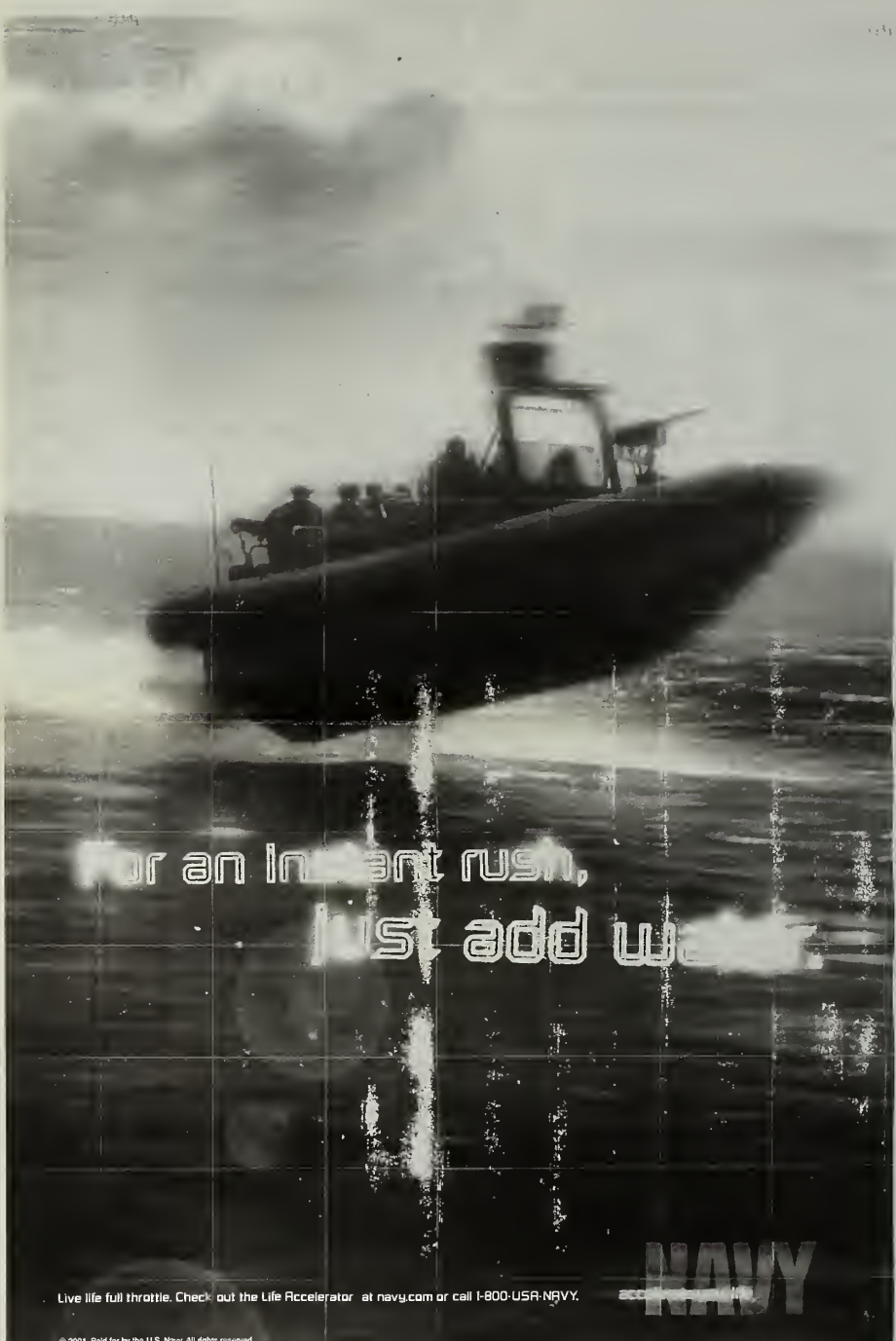
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Mainstreet:

Get informed, get involved, get connected

By Sandy Redmond

"There is something for everyone at JJC," said Pam Dilday, Student Activities and Holistic Wellness coordinator.



The Victory Singers kick off Mainstreet with a September 11 memorial service.

Photo by Geoff Rutsch, Media Services

Sept. 11 and 12 were the Student Activities recurring days, and with its "Country and Western" theme, Mainstreet 2002 kicked off with an illustrious line-up of events, including free giveaways of t-shirts, banners and door prizes. Every club, including the academic Phi Theta Kappa, the sports related Rugby Club, the Native American Multicultural Organization and the Interactivity Christian Fellowship Club, welcomed potential newcomers.

"Get informed, get involved, get connected is the motto of the OSA," said Dilday. With that in mind, many students took to the hallway of the Main Campus C-G Concourse to find out more. With enrollment up at JJC, Dilday was optimistic for "more students that are interested (in clubs)."

Along with the academic, career, Christian, honorary, multicultural, special interest and sports-related clubs, new clubs are continuously forming. Aaron Melnychuk, member of the upcoming Society for Precarious Balance, said it looks promising that they will be an official club in the near future. Riding unicycles, juggling and performing other amazing tricks are just some of the many talents that the members of this new club exalt.

Mainstreet also offered students a variety of volunteer opportunities such as the Girl Scouts, United Way and Catholic Charities.

Rock the vote

Student Alliance urges participation in election

The Student Alliance at JJC is sponsoring a voter registration drive in hopes of increasing their classmates' involvement in the political process.

"We believe that exercising your right to vote is an important part of civic responsibility," said Levon Pettis, Student Trustee of JJC. "College students haven't been to the polls in large numbers in recent years. This effort is a simple way to get students to become more involved in their community."

The June 2002 issue of Postsecondary Education Opportunity reports that only 55 percent of the US adult population voted in the November 2000 election. In addition, it noted that community college students are less likely to vote than students who are pursuing a bachelors or advanced degree.

"Illinois community colleges

serve nearly one million students every year," added Anissa Jones, OSA. "Holding a voter registration drive at JJC will reach many people who may not otherwise have the time or know how to register."

Deputy registrars will be at the Main Campus from 11am-1pm on Sept. 30-Oct. 4 in the cafeteria. Individuals interested in registering to vote in the Nov. 5 general election must bring two forms of identification, one of which must show the person's current address.

Similar campus-based voter registration drives are taking place across the state under the leadership of the Illinois Community College Board Student Advisory Committee and the Illinois Community College Trustees Association.

For additional information, contact the Student Alliance Office at (815) 280-6608 or jccsa@jcc.edu.

Physics professor uses grants to advance his field of study

Teacher receives \$75,000 grant for electrostatics

By David Ashby

Joliet Junior College instructor Dr. Curtis Hieggelke has devoted much of his career improving the study of physics. So far, he has obtained 12 grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF), many of which are awarded for the purpose of enhancing the teaching of certain complicated areas of physics.

Working off his latest grant of \$75,000, Hieggelke and his colleagues Dr. Steven Kanin from New Mexico State University and Dr. David Maloney from Purdue University are each creating new ways to teach the difficult and complex field of electro-

statics. Electrostatics is the study of the fundamentals of the interactions of charged particles. Xeroxing, television, and even filters that clean factory smoke stacks are just some of the many gadgets that use some form of electrostatics. However, electricity itself is a very difficult and complex field of study and many times students test very poorly on these types of subjects. This is one of the problems Hieggelke and his associates are trying to change.

About three years ago, he received a grant to enhance the study and teaching of magnetism. From his research, they created new materials and study aids for the students. The program was a remarkable success because students who were being tested showed remarkable improvements.

"We do better than most schools that take these standard tests," he said. To create new student study aids for electrostatics, Hieggelke will be using some of the techniques that worked during his magnetism research, which include ranking exercises, the use of computers and jeopardy problems (where students are given the answer and are asked to come up with the problem). Rather than just listening to lectures and taking notes, the students are challenged to solve real-world problems.

Hieggelke's research has been taught to many community college professors across the country (through the use of faculty workshops). When asked what his most important goal was, he replied "to build a very strong level of understanding in the field of physics."

Library solves research problems

The LRC (Library) is a great place to study, find materials or just read a good book. The Joliet Junior College library collection is accessible through ILLINET Online, an automated catalog system available at <http://www.jjc.edu/LRC/>.

This web catalog can be searched from any computer with web access. ILLINET Online also provides access to the collections of 44 other libraries around the state, including all the state universities. Titles not available at JJC can be obtained by student request on the web. There are also a number of magazines available to look at as well as electronic databases with full text that can be searched in the library or from the convenience of your own home computer.

Library hours are Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Friday 7:30 - 4:30 p.m., Satur-

day from 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00-5:00 p.m. It is located in J Building on the third floor. Stop in and give it a visit. If you need help finding materials, there is always a reference librarian available or you

can call them at 815 280-2344.

Courtesy of LRC Librarians Catherine Perry and Barb Wilson. Photo by David Ashby.



The Blazer welcomes back JJC students for the fall!

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Arming campus police still a consideration at JJC

Future of campus police and security in the hands of the Board of Trustees

By Jason Baloun

Last February a study was conducted by Loaned Executive Assistance Program, LEMAP, which is a team of national safety experts who studied JJC's campus police department. Several recommendations were made, one of which was to arm our campus police.

Frank Alberico, law enforcement professor and LEMAP task force member at JJC, feels that arming campus police is really a smaller part of a much larger issue.

"We feel that a full-fledged, fully-operational police department would give us the best shot at having a safe community here," said Alberico.

Currently there are only six full-time certified officers who police the main campus, the city center and the north campus.

"To build a police department... could take three, four, five years... What you really need to be doing is to commit to do it."

***--Frank Alberico,
law enforcement professor***

A full-fledged police department would include doubling or tripling the number of officers, upgrading to better equipment and allowing officers to carry firearms, said Alberico.

Ali Haleem, a law enforcement major and second year student at JJC, feels more manpower is needed because enrollment keeps increasing.

"The (JJC Board of) trustees are gambling. They say they're concerned with campus safety, but when it comes to action they won't back it up," said Haleem.

The situation was not discussed at the trustees September board meeting.

"The campus police here have al-

ways been ruled very low in priority," said Alberico, "and yet we expect so much of them."

JJC is open to a wide variety of students from different backgrounds, of different ages and from many different areas. Alberico feels that JJC is not being fair to them by not supplying a full-scale police department, and that the college is "operating on borrowed time."

Arming the six officers that are currently employed at JJC is not really the issue. Alberico said, "they (would) need additional re-training, additional conditioning and additional policy that (would) help them and the institution. None of that is in place right now," said Alberico.

If the Board of Trustees were to approve the forming of a new campus police department, it would take time

"It's not going to happen overnight. To build a police department... could take three, four, five years," said Alberico. "What they (trustees) really need to be doing is to commit to do it."

One of the perceived problems with a fully upgraded campus police department is the thought of adding guns to the JJC campus.

"A gun is a symbol of violence, and schools are against violence completely," said Haleem.

Alberico agrees that arming campus police is an emotional issue.

"There's a larger picture to be looked at. That is, we need to make this campus safe. A safe environment for all of us. The best way for that to happen is to operate a full-blown police department. That's the goal, that all of us are safe out here."

Question of the Issue: What Is Your Definition of Freedom?



Sarah Gura

"The freedom to be my own self and make my own choices."



Becca Hoge

"My definition of freedom is when a person can walk down the street or the hallway and not be criticized for how that person is dressed, talks or what race they are."



Craig Lowry

"Being able to dress, act and think how you want to as long as you don't hurt anyone."



Jennieh Crones

"Being able to escape from irrelevant rules and annoying people that just keep you down."



David Valdivia

"Freedom is doing something you want to do with no restrictions or boundaries."



Brandi Tarkelly

"I think that freedom is being who and what you are instead of being who and what someone else wants you to be."

Photos and copy by Jessica Harvey

Think you can do
better?
FINE!!!!

If there's a Question of
the Issue that you'd like
to ask, email the Blazer
blazermail@jjc.edu



JJC now offers convenient campus housing

by Jessica Harvey

The fall semester started with new beginnings when Joliet Junior College became the first junior college in Illinois to offer campus housing for students.

"Students like the convenient factor of living here," said Zandy Baker, Housing Director. "You get to know how to live in a community and it helps you prepare for living at a four year college."

All of the students residing at Centennial Commons have their own reasons for moving there, but the most common answers seem to be convenience and independence.

"I like living at Centennial Commons because I am finally independent," said David Newman, resident assistant. "Living here has taught me how to be part of the process of opening the property."

Parking has become increasingly tight this semester since enrollment has significantly increased. With housing being so close to the campus, students can walk to school instead of driving or taking the bus.

"Before I moved here, transportation wasn't reliable but now I can

"The apartments are affordable, and I like the convenience of living so close to school."

-Patrick Dalton, resident

come and go to school as I please," said Tia Seaberg.

Students and staff alike are eagerly awaiting the completion of the clubhouse. Baker hopes that there will be a few more hot days left this year, so students will be able to swim in the clubhouse pool. She also anticipates that the rest of the clubhouse will be completed by the beginning of October. A variety of events such as Monday night football and Tates Words Sounds (featuring food, poetry and music, which was previously held on the bridge) will take place inside the clubhouse. These events will be open to all students enrolled at JJC.

October also brings barbecues that are planned to take place at the pavilion located next to the clubhouse. These cookouts are also open to all JJC students, and not just those who reside at Centennial Commons.

Students residing at Centennial Commons were able to choose from three different housing layouts such as four-bedroom, two bedroom and one-



Activities such as Monday Night Football and poetry readings will take place here at the clubhouse.

Photo by Jessica Harvey

bedroom efficiency. Students have their own bedrooms and never have to share a bathroom with more than two people. Kitchens and living rooms are shared with roommates if students choose to live in a four or two-bedroom apartment.

There are 12 complexes that accommodate a total of 236 students. The Housing Foundation Limited Liability Company operates Centennial Commons.

While the rooms have a dorm-like atmosphere, the actual housing structures are set up like apartment complexes. Students are able to come and go as they please, unlike most colleges and universities where students have to check in at a security desk if they enter the building late at night.

Even though the students may have more freedom to roam, there are still rules that they have to follow. The designated quiet hours are set at 10 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends. However, this rule seems to be the most easily broken.

"The only complaint that I have is all of the noise, and people being verbally abusive," said Seaberg.

There have been multiple accounts of people being verbally disruptive and verbally aggressive.

Other rules include a no smoking and drinking policy. Even if students are of legal drinking age, they must refrain from doing so on campus property.

However, the overall consensus of campus housing has been positive.

"Living here has taught me how to be independent. The apartments are affordable, and I like the convenience of living so close to school," said Patrick Dalton.

The Centennial Commons Gallery: Rooms with a view



An outside view of the apartment complexes at Centennial Commons.

Photo by Jessica Harvey



Patrick Dalton may not be a gourmet chef, but at Centennial Commons, he's king of his domain.

Photo by Jessica Harvey



Patrick Dalton and his friend Sam Agosti enjoy their freedom inside Patrick's fabulous apartment.

Photo by Jessica Harvey



Resident assistant David Newman is hard at work making sure that things run smoothly for students living on campus.

Photo by Jessica Harvey

News briefs

Chess Club: On Saturday, Oct. 12, the JJC Chess club will be holding a non-rated chess tournament. Registration will be from 11:30 a.m. until 11:50 a.m. The tournament begins at noon, with rounds starting at noon, 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. There will also be cash prizes and raffles at the tournament. Entry fee is \$5 for the general public and \$3 for JJC students. For more information visit www.jjc.edu/clubs/chess or call 280-1513.

Fine Arts Department: The Fine Arts Department will present an exhibit of contemporary generated computer art in the Laura A. Sprague Gallery from Sept. 3 through Sept. 27 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The Fine Arts Department along with the Theatre Program will also present The Laramie Project on Oct. 3 at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 4 and 5 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 6 at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices for this event are \$5 for the general public, \$4 for senior citizens, non JJC students, JJC Faculty and Staff and \$2 for JJC students. For reservations or more information, call 280-2200.

Gamer's Club: The Gamer's Club will hold a club lock-in at the Cyber Cafe from 6 p.m. on Sept 27 until 7 a.m. on Sept 28.

Graphology Club: The Graphology Club will present a Handwriting Analysis Group in room B-2001 on Monday Sept. 30 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Herbert Trackman Planetarium: On Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 6:30 p.m., the Herbert Trackman Planetarium will present "Solar Systems Stake-Out." This is a planetarium show suited for people of all ages. The Herbert Trackman Planetarium is located in F-Building on the JJC main campus. Admission is free.

The Multicultural Transfer Center: The Multicultural Transfer Center will present JJC High School College Night On Tues., Oct. 15, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. where over 100 colleges will be present at the main campus. High school students are encouraged to attend.

The Multicultural Transfer Center will also present the JJC State Universities Fair On Tuesday, Oct. 15, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. several state university representatives will be present on the D and E concourse to speak with students wishing to transfer after JJC.

Schoolhouse Rock

Witroy won't be pigeonholed...and that's fine with them

By Craig Miller

"Forget practice, I'm gonna go watch the Bears game!"

It's the end of the final rehearsal before Witroy goes on to play a free show on Sept. 14, at the "ever popular" Elwood Days festival. Despite the very un-rock and roll attitude presented by bassist Mike Anderson, the rest of the band seems in very high spirits. Anderson, along with drummer Steven DiGenova and singer/guitarist Chase Mason, make up the local band from Joliet known as Witroy.

"Our style is very unusual," says Anderson, who tends to be the life of a Witroy stage show. "It seems that nobody, including ourselves, can put



From left: Drummer Steven DiGenova, vocalist/guitarist Chase Mason and bassist/vocalist Mike Anderson form the band Witroy.

a label on our exact sound. If we take a little bit from that band, and a tiny bit from that band, and so on, we come up with something that sounds totally different. But the down side to that is that people don't get it, and most people at our shows are left with a puzzled look on their face."

However, this does not bother the band at all. In fact they tend to enjoy confusing people.

"That's what made the Beatles so famous, their ability to make people think, and that's all we strive to do," said Anderson. With influences ranging from the Beatles and the Who, to Led Zeppelin and the Pixies, Witroy is trying hard to make a name for themselves in the local music scene.

But aside from playing music, two of the members of Witroy are dedicated to doing their homework. Anderson is working on his third year at JUC in the law enforcement field, and Mason, also a third year student, intends to continue work in history.

"I wish I could live a rock star lifestyle, but I'm so down to earth that I don't care if anything happens, and

I prefer people not even knowing who I am," says Anderson.

Even though the band has been playing many larger venues in the Chicago area such as Riley's Rockhouse, Fireside Bowl, The Barn, and Oasis 160, the band tends to get their kicks not so much from playing on stage, but rather messing with the audience.

"We like to go up and start conversations with people in the audience, and kind of play with them, and ask if they like any bands before we even go on. Sometimes they totally rip on us, not knowing who we are, and then we go on, and watch them feel bad for dissing us. It's pretty funny."

Witroy has two performances coming up. First on Sunday Oct. 20, from 8-10pm, they will do an on-air interview and acoustic performance on 89.1 FM. Then on Saturday Oct. 26 they will play a live show at Tower Records in Bloomington on 383 West Army Trail Rd. at 2p.m. You can also check out the band website for more information: www.witroybobville.com.

MTV Video Music Awards

Star-studded night lives up to crowd's expectations

By Tiffani Shipp

On Aug. 29, 2002, MTV broadcast its annual video music awards live from Radio City Music Hall in New York City. This is the one show where all the stars of stage and screen can act, say and do whatever they want.

Saturday Night Live star Jimmy Fallon was the host and he proved to be a little funnier than the Wayans brothers, who hosted the show last year. His opening skit, a rendition of various popular MTV artists, was about the funniest skit Fallon did the entire night. James Brown, the godfather of soul, was even there to back him up.

Among the performers for the pre-show were Avril Lavigne and Nelly. When the show finally did start, it proved to be an evening of drunken acceptance speeches and barely-there fashion. However, there was a heart-warming tribute to Lisa "Left Eye" Lopez of TLC. The remaining members of the group could barely keep it together long enough to talk about the foundation established in Left Eye's name.

There were many performances, but the most explosive was the one



Axl Rose performing at the 2002 VMA's on August 29.

Photo courtesy of MTV with P. Diddy and his entourage, which included Usher, Pharrell Williams, Busta Rhymes, Loon and some aerobatic dancers. Of all the performances that took place, this one was the most expensive.

Justin Timberlake also took the stage to give his first solo performance, which proved to be interesting. That boy

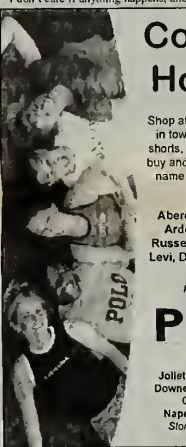
can sing and dance. He reminds me of a young Michael Jackson with a splash of Usher.

It would not be an MTV award show without some on-stage drama. One particular incident involved the bickering between Eminem, Moby and Triumph the Insult Dog (from the Conan O'Brien show, and the Comedy Central skit show TV Funhouse). If you missed it the first time, that's too bad because they have already edited it out of the re-plays of the show.

Eminem went on to win the award for Best Male Video, which, ironically, was presented by Christina Aguilera. Other winners included Pink for Best Female Video and No Doubt for Best Group Video.

For the 4th year in a row, Britney Spears did not take home any Moon Men. Another loser of the night was "Nsync, who failed to win the Viewer's Choice Award (they usually always win hands down). That award went to Michelle Branch; this reporter has no comment.

Last but not least, Guns and Roses gave the final surprise performance. I guess MTV saved the best for last.



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Summer reviews: *Minority Report* steals show

By Matt Sheehan

From *Spider-Man to Episode II*, this summer was jam-packed with big-budget, CGI-laden, stereotypical blockbusters and will probably go down as one of the biggest of all time.



Unfortunately, it can not be referred to as one of the best.

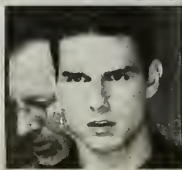
Spider-Man: Officially (and traditionally), the summer film season crossed the horizon in May with the most anticipated film of the summer, *Spider-Man*. Like 99.9% of all the films released this summer, *Spider-Man* had to rely heavily on CGI artistry. Though controversy surrounded his casting, Tobey Maguire was the perfect (and ideal) choice for nerdy Peter Parker. Although the first two-thirds of *Spider-Man* was simply exquisite (particularly with Parker discovering his powers and abilities), the final half-hour to 45 minutes was nothing short of your typical superhero and/or action film. All together, *Spider-Man* pretty much lived up to its hype. **B+**

Star Wars: Episode II-Attack of the Clones: Also appearing in May was the highly anticipated *Episode II*. Everyone, except for a few treasonous

separatists, thought it was the best Star Wars film since *The Empire Strikes Back*. All I have to say is "Yoda rules!" Moreover, if you want to see Yoda bounce three stories high, get ready because *Episode II* is coming to IMAX in November! However, *Episode II*

was a bit chatty. Nevertheless, bring on *Episode III*! **A-**

Men in Black II and Austin Powers in Goldmember: Now this summer had its fair share of sequels, spe-



cifically *MIB 2* and *Austin Powers 3*. So far, these two films are the worst movies of the year. *MIB 2* just sucked, and *Austin Powers 3*, well, is even worse. They are just Xerox copies of the previous films! In fact, they are even worse than the *Scorpion King*! **MIB II: D+ and Austin Powers 3: F**

Undercover Brother: Though *MIB 2* and *Austin Powers 3* failed to provide laughs, there was a smart and surprisingly funny yet under-seen film that came and went. That film was *Undercover Brother*. Whether or not you laughed during the film, *Undercover Brother* is full of bell-bottoms and disco faves (including my personal addiction, "Play That Funky Music White Boy"), so get that fabulous soundtrack. It's fun to watch this clever satire of what blaxpotation films of the 60s and 70s wanted to get across. The entire cast was nearly flawless in this hilarious romp. Rent it when it comes to video and DVD, or run to the cheap show now before it's too late, because *Undercover Brother* is "solid." **B+**

And now (drum roll, please), it is time to reveal the best film of the summer. And it just so happens to be the best film of the year so far. The film is the dream team match-up of Tom Cruise and Steven Spielberg, *Minority Report*. A flawless presentation of seamless blending of live action and CGI, *Minority Report* is a spectacular visual masterpiece, as well as a bucket full of the finest performances of the year. Cruise is convincing and excellent as the "pre-crime" chief John Anderton. Colin Farrell is smooth and brilliant, but Samantha Morton's performance is the finest in the film (she plays one of the "pre-cognitives" from the year 2054). Not to leave out "Sir Steven" but the great director brings us what he tried to accomplish with *AI*, a Kubrickesque film that gives off the feel of a luminous Hitchcock mystery, with one of the greatest "who dunnit" answers in film history. A superb, sure-fire Oscar contender. **A+**

For more reviews, including the bashing of *Men in Black II* and *Austin Powers in Goldmember*, please visit <http://geocities.com/mjs914jic/>



Yoda:
Kicking ass and taking names in
Episode II.

illustration by Chr. :201

~HOROSCOPES~

BY THE BLAZER STAFF



Aries-A mysterious man named Gomer will ask you to go fishing. Beware-he nibbles.



Taurus-You continue to wonder why your second toe is larger than your first toe throughout the coming weeks. Don't stress yourself out...freak.



Gemini-Your friend will give you a gift, a CD featuring the best songs from David Hasselhoff. It is time to get a new friend.



Cancer-A special surprise awaits you in the bottom of a Cracker Jack box. It's a real doozy!



Leo-Nature will call, so answer it. Or else you've got a real mess on your hands (or in your pants).



Virgo-Don't ever let other people put you down, you moron.



Libra-Your luck will change when you receive a visit from a man dressed in a giant bird suit...I never said it would be good luck.



Capricorn-You're not superman, so take off the spandex and stop jumping off your roof.



Aquarius-Your daytime career ends when you're kicked out of the Mickey Mouse club. Oh well, there's always Menudo.



Sagittarius-Always listen to your mother. Forrest Gump did, and look at all the cool stuff he accomplished.



Pisces-Your dreams are shattered when you fail to get a date with the hot woman who always hangs out at Marshall Fields because she was removed from the display case. At least you know why she wasn't responding.

Madden, Megadeth and Disturbed...entertainment powerhouses

Our fine staff reviews the latest in multimedia entertainment



Madden NFL 2003
Format: PS2
Players: 1-8 (2-8 online)
Also on: Xbox, Gamecube, PC
By Oamron Wrona

Another year, another Madden. Madden, now in its 12th season, is back to defend its crown as the best football game on the market. Although you may not notice it right away, Madden has made small improvements over their winning formula that separates this title from the rest in the market.

The biggest change this year is the ability to play Madden online. Two to eight players can bang it out on the gridiron via broadband or dial-up connections. Nothing is needed to go online except the Sony Internet adapter and an online connection. Playing online is great with virtually no lag even with a dial-up connection. This online option is also exclusive to PS2 Madden owners (sorry, Cube and Xbox owners).

On the audio front, Madden has now ditched slow and boring Pat Summerall for his new Monday Night Football buddy Al Michaels. If you play Madden from year to year, you'll notice how much more lively the game is with Michaels doing the play-by-play.

Graphically, Madden hasn't changed that much from 2002. There are a lot of new animations and some work has been done with the player's

faces to make them more comparable to their real-life counterparts. The new running back animations help the running game drastically and the new gang tackle animations are terrific. Players will also be able to look at their defensive reads before the snap, which is helpful in analyzing your own weak points. The pre-game graphics have also been re-worked to give Madden a better TV style presentation.

The numerous options in Madden have always been the best, and this



John Madden

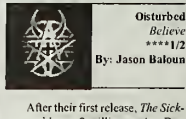
year is no different. Back are season and practice modes, as well as the popular franchise mode. Franchise mode allows players to guide a team or teams through up to 30 seasons of play. Players will have to sign and re-



sign players, pick up free agents, and draft players out of college. This mode alone is why I play Madden every year. New options include the new training camp mode, which allows you to travel to each team's training camp to practice drills to earn Madden Cards. The inclusion of a playbook editor tops off the already impressive list of modes to explore.

Things that could be improved include the big plays the CPU would pull off and the super human abilities of the running backs breaking tackles. I once watched the Packers Ahman Green break five tackles on one run, only to get back up and break free more on his way to a TD on the next play. These complaints are the only things holding Madden back from a perfect score.

If you play the majority of your football games by yourself and love the simulation aspects of the game, I can't recommend this title more to you. Even if you've never played Madden before, the practice modes and easier difficulty settings will ease you in with no problem. Madden is still king, for another season.



Disturbed Believe
****1/2
By: Jason Baloun

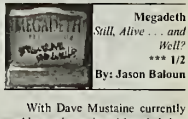
After their first release, *The Sickness*, sold over 2 million copies, Disturbed achieved superstar status. *Believe* is their make-or-break sophomore release, and the album shows that Disturbed has more talent than anyone ever imagined.

Lead singer Dave Drauman has changed his style from just barking strange noises and singing fast to actually creating melodies and holding notes. I didn't know he could sing that well, but songs like "Believe" and "Remember" show just how vocally talented he has become.

All of the musicians have become more skilled, the most obvious being Dan Donegan on guitar. He keeps the music alive, and throws in a lot of catchy riffs. Songs like "Prayer" and "Intoxication" are classic Disturbed-style songs. This album really has a little bit of something for everyone.

The final track, "Darkness," is a ballad-style song, which will leave you wanting more.

Disturbed, instead of falling into the comfortable role created by their first release, has evolved into a new and very talented band. *Believe* will secure Disturbed's place in the music world and make some of their great music popular.



Megadeth Still Alive...and Well?
*** 1/2
By: Jason Baloun

With Dave Mustaine currently unable to play guitar, Megadeth has called it quits. Apparently that doesn't mean they'll stop releasing albums.

Still Alive...and Well? contains six live tracks and six tracks off the band's last release, *The World Needs a Hero*.

"Time/Use the Man" and "Conjuring" are the only three live songs that did not appear on Megadeth's last live album.

If you never saw Megadeth live, you missed out on one of the greatest performing bands of all time. The first six songs will get you close to what you missed.

It's not a must-have CD, but if your supply of Megadeth music is low, it's a nice mix. For those die-hard Megadeth fans, "Time/Use the Man" almost makes this CD worth buying.

As a side note, rumors have been circulating which suggest that Dave Mustaine is slowly picking up his guitar again. Will he recover enough to be able to reform his band and make new music? Only time will tell.

Look for more reviews in every Blazer issue.

Overall Score: 9.0 out of 10

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Photo of the Issue



One of the five Varsity "Big" presents a song of remembrance during JJC's 9-11 Memorial Service

Photo by Geoff Rusch, Media Services

Change proves positive for Wolves volleyball



Lady Wolves pose for a team picture with new coaches Valerie Jones and Erin McClintock

Photo courtesy of JJC Athletic Department

Women's volleyball team fights to develop its own identity

By Nathan Bauer and Megan Gilman

This is the first year the JJC women's volleyball team has only three returning starting players from the previous year. They are Sarah Van Dwyne, an outside hitter/left back, Maribel Olivas, a right side hitter, and Kristen Capista, an outside/right side hitter. The rest of the team consists of eight new faces, including new head coach Valerie Jones.

The team finished last year's season with a 51-8 record and a state championship, as well as a second place finish at the National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA) Championship.

"Our attitude is positive, but we have a lot to live up to from last year,

and there is a lot of pressure," said VanDwyne.

After losing their first three games, the Lady Wolves struck back with crucial wins against the College of Dupage, South Suburban College and Rock Valley College. So far this season the team is ranked second in the NJCAA volleyball poll and carries an 8-11 overall record.

Jones has high expectations of her team and stresses that it is not the same group as last year.

"I expect the girls to work hard and grow as a team. We need to understand the offense and defense and learn how to exploit it to our advantage."

The new coaches on the block

By Nathan Bauer

Valerie Jones and student assistant Erin McClintock are the two new faces coaching the Lady Wolves volleyball team this year.

Jones will have some big shoes to fill with the departure of former head coach Kim McCay. Last year, McCay led the Wolves to a 51-8 overall record, a 12-0 N4C Conference Championship and a 2nd place finish at the NJCAA National Championships.

Jones will hopefully bring this team to the promise land again, however she will have to overcome this season's dismal 2-4 start. She was an assistant coach with the Northwestern Wildcats team in 2000.

Erin McClintock is no stranger to the volleyball bench. In 2001 she was a star player on the championship team. She was ready to enter her second season as a Lady Wolf, but a major back injury sidelined her.

Not only is she a student assistant, but she is also a resident advisor for the Centennial Commons program and a third-year pre-nursing student. In 2000, she graduated from Providence Catholic High School, where she played volleyball, under the watchful eye of Nan Ariola, as well as basketball and softball.

Soccer no longer just a club at JJC, this year it's a varsity sport!

By Matt Furlane

This past summer the World Cup reminded the world why soccer is called the "beautiful game." After weeks of intense competition, including a surprisingly excellent performance by the United States, perennial powerhouse Brazil won the Cup and inspired soccer fans all over the globe.

Beginning this semester students from all over the district will now have the opportunity to play the "beautiful game" here at JJC with the newly established men and women's varsity soccer program.

"I'm excited about the future, I think if things are done well we can build a solid program," stated head coach of the men's soccer team Cristobal Trillo. "I think we can have a very successful program and compete with the best teams in the region like College of Dupage, McHenry, and South Suburban."

Prior to this season, students in-

terested in soccer had only one way to stay in shape and play in tournaments, and that was to join the Soccer Club, which used to practice on Saturdays in the gym and on local fields. But the club didn't offer any college level experience or the opportunity to get a scholarship from a four-year institution. At times even getting uniforms was difficult, according to Trillo.

But now things are changing and with the support of the school administration, the foundation for a competitive soccer program is being established.

Despite the optimism, some challenges still remain. JJC is new to the game and must compete against colleges with long-established programs and better facilities. Yet the Wolves have managed to beat teams like Moraine Valley, and as the season progresses both the men's and women's teams hope to grow stronger. Already several players are beginning to stand out among a good in-

tal group. For the women's team there are Janna Underwood, Ashley McElferd, and Michelle Carr, and for the men's team there are Derrick Beckham, Eduardo Pantoja, Eric Quintero, and Marcos Rodriquez.

Although the women's team is still getting settled the men's team is off to a good start as it reaches the halfway point of its season.

"I think the season has been going fairly well, especially the first three games," said Trillo. "We never expected to win three games in a row. I think we have a group that wants to compete and do well."

Currently the men are 3-2 overall and 1-1 in their conference. Regional qualifying will begin in October.

Regardless of the end performance of the teams, the soccer program is looking like a success for JJC and will give many students the chance to compete and maybe someday play for MLS or for a World Cup.

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JJC Women's Tennis Team winding down another season

The JJC Women's Tennis team has only two regular season games remaining on its 2002 schedule. Coached by Tim Vanderwall, the Lady Wolves currently sport a 2-6 record, pending results of the Tuesday, Sept. 24 game. The remaining regular season games will be played today, Sept.

25, at McHenry County College, and on Friday, Oct. 4 at home against the University of Illinois-Springfield.

Sandwiched between those games will be a trip to the NJCAA Region IV & N4C Conference Tournament, which will begin Friday, Sept. 27.

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JJC Wolves off to a great start- season record 3-0

By Damon Wrona

The JJC Wolves football team has continued its winning ways from last season. Its 45-14 win over Illinois Wesleyan JV's on Sunday in Bloomington ran its record to 3-0.



Sophomore football players Ben Henderson and Nichel Marshall show that JJC is a number one. Photo courtesy of JJC Athletic Department

This was preceded by wins over William Rainey Harper College, 30-7, in the season opener and Rock Valley College, 38-8, the following week.

The three wins moved the Wolves' winning streak up to 13 games, dating

back to last season when the team finished the season 10-1 (7-1 in conference) and secured a NAC/Region IV Conference Championship, as well as a state championship.

Against Illinois Wesleyan, the Wolves rang up 420 yards of total offense. They led 38-0 at halftime and cruised to victory.

In the season opener on Aug. 31, the Wolves' defensive front dominated the Hawks, holding them to just 23 rushing yards. The Wolves had big contributions from Derriek Phillips and Josh Christman. Phillips, a sophomore DB, picked off two passes while Christman, also a sophomore, recorded three sacks.

Offensively, sophomore split end Kelvin Hayden put on a show as he caught eight passes for 243 yards and scored two touchdowns. Sophomore Dajuan Johnson added 83 yards on 23 carries. The Wolves were able to accumulate 429 total yards that day.

The Wolves would dominate again, this time in their second game, destroying the Rock Valley College



Sophomore Kelvin Hayden runs like the wind into the endzone.

Photo courtesy of JJC Athletic Department

Golden Eagles 38-8 in Joliet.

Once again the Wolves received

large contributions on offense from Hayden and Johnson. Hayden tallied 49 yards on seven catches while Johnson added 60 yards on 13 carries, including a pair of touchdowns.

Defensively the Wolves held the Eagles scoreless for three quarters of play. Leading the way again was Christman, who added two more sacks

to his total. Datanec Lay, a sophomore LB, capped off the first half with a 41-yard interception return for a touchdown.

Head coach Bob McDougall was pleased with his team's performance.

"We put them away early, and that is exactly what we needed to do," McDougall said.

The Wolves will face Grand Rapids Community College on Sept. 28.

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Women's soccer First season a struggle for Lady Wolves

Team remains optimistic after rough start

By Maricela Paramo

Underwood assisted.

The Joliet Junior College women's soccer season has begun. Coaching the team is Dan Furlan, who has also coached track and volleyball here at JJC for 14 years.

The girls' first season has had a rough beginning. The team had to forfeit its first game against Elgin Community College due to the lack of team members. The first game it played was against Waubesa, which it lost 4-2. JJC student Ashley Meffered made both goals and Jana

The women have also played against Harper College with a loss of 8-0, and Moraine Valley Community College, losing 7-1.

Although the girls have lost, they continue to work hard. Michelle Charr, goalie, has shown her hard work with 58 saves in three games.

Any girls interested in soccer should contact coach Dan Furlan at 280-2379. Practices are daily from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. This season will continue through mid-October.



Players of JJC's women's soccer team going for the goal!

Photo by David Ashby

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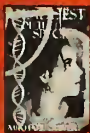
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Trouble on the home front at Centennial Commons

Arson, drugs and altercations at JJC's new housing complex cause concern

By David Ashby

Since Centennial Commons opened this semester, there have been a number of incidents in which disciplinary action had to be taken. The latest involves 20-year-old student Daniel Harridge, who was arrested and charged for aggravated arson in connection with a fire that destroyed an apartment at Centennial Commons on Oct. 8, according to the Joliet Police Department reports.

The fire started on a couch in a ground-level apartment around 5 p.m. and soon engulfed the entire room, causing an estimated \$5,000 to \$10,000 in damages, according to Vice President of Student Services Alan Hardersen. Luckily, the sprinkler system was activated and helped to confine the fire to the room before the Joliet Fire Department arrived. Nobody was injured in the blaze, but it did leave the apartment temporarily uninhabitable. Harridge's bond has been set at \$500,000.

Earlier on Sept. 8, seven to eight males entered one of the apartments and engaged in a physical altercation, according to campus police reports. No charges were filed. On Sept. 23, there was an altercation involving 50-70 people in one of the housing's parking lots. One person was taken to the hospital.

According to campus police reports, there have also been a number of cases involving drugs and alcohol. Centennial Commons has a zero-tolerance drug policy, which means that



Storm clouds loom over the housing complex at Centennial Commons

Photo by David Ashby

if a resident is caught with alcohol or drugs on the property, he or she will be immediately evicted. A handful of students have decided to test this policy, including two individuals who were evicted for marijuana possession during the first week of school. However, since the apartment complex is owned by a private company, the two students were not expelled from school. Criminal charges were filed, though.

Zandy Baker, director of Centennial Commons, declined to comment on these incidents.

According to Hardersen, many of these incidents involved non-residents.

Several residents who did not

want to be named have told staff members of the Blazer that they feel unsafe living at Centennial Commons.

"Of course there are going to be problems. But these issues of safety are going to be hit head-on," said Hardersen.

Despite these incidents, the campus police and college administration remain positive.

"We were prepared for this," said Watch Commander Melvin Cornelius. "Compared to the other community colleges in the nation, the number of incidents is relatively low."

Hardersen agreed. "We knew that there were going to be challenges. Anybody who's visited a college or university's campus housing are aware

that young people are living away from home for the first time. Part of their development includes learning to respect the rights and space of others."

Officials hope that the number of incidents at Centennial Commons will decline once the access gate and clubhouse are finally finished. Also, there is a trespassing ordinance in effect, in which non-residents who are hanging around the apartments will be asked to show identification. If they do not, they will be asked to leave immediately.

"We're satisfied, but not entirely satisfied. There's room for improvement," said Hardersen.

Will County residents rally to end domestic violence

By Sandy Redmond

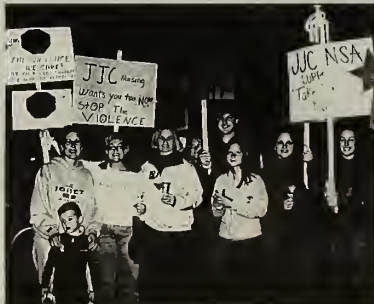
Many victims of domestic violence suffer in silence. They hide their abuse from outsiders who could help end their anguish. They do this as a way of protecting themselves and sometimes their abusers. Most victims express the feeling that nobody will understand them. Therefore, many victims of domestic violence are anonymous sufferers.

"Take Back the Night" was created to educate the public of the horrors of domestic violence because it is a crime that takes place behind closed doors, and claims many innocent lives. According to the official Will County Take Back the Night website, only one-seventh of all domestic assaults are reported to the police.

The rally and march were held on Oct. 8 at Joliet Catholic Academy from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Held outside, the event demonstrated the unity of Will County residents coming together to prevent violence against women.

In Germany in 1973, a flood of murders crimes were being committed against women. Determined to hinder these incidents, the country took action and created Take Back the Night rallies as a deterrent. The rallies gave survivors of these crimes the opportunity to reclaim their strength and to regain a feeling of safety.

Will County adopted the idea in



At the Will County Take Back the Night rally JJC nursing students and faculty demonstrate that domestic violence will not be tolerated in the community

Photo by Jessica Harvey

1997 and it soon became essential to the Joliet area for providing knowledge and prevention of domestic violence.

"I think domestic violence is a danger to our society. The people who have been recipients of domestic violence now feel more comfortable with coming forward and filing a complaint (police report) against the attackers," said Sen. Lawrence Walsh of the 43rd district. Walsh has been involved in the Take Back the Night rallies since its inception.

Walsh feels that the importance of Will County's Take Back the Night rallies holds true because, as he sees

it, there is "no room for violence, period." A ceremonial remembrance to "empower each other" and an announcement that listed women who had lost their lives through domestic violence served as the focal points of this year's sixth annual rally.

Marching to the beat of drumming by participants, the family members of the victims were led on to the sidewalks with lit candles. Many were wearing the names of perished loved ones.

Approximately 200 to 250 participants marched down Larkin Ave. and Black Rd. while chanting

"take back the night" and holding signs echoing their compassion.

This year's Take Back the Night rally was particularly moving for Marcelina Arthur. She came to light a candle for her 18-year-old daughter Tyraneisha Arthur, who was killed on June 16, Tyraneisha was due to attend JJC this semester, and Marcelina said, "I sure hate that she didn't get to go."

Though Arthur was feeling ill, she felt compelled to let the public know that tolerating violence against women should end. She hopes that her attendance at the rally would signify this.

"It's going to hurt for a while, and it's going to take some time, but it's going to be okay," said Arthur of her daughter's death.

Although the number of people in attendance at this year's rally at first appeared to be disappointing, the crowd grew as the participants moved farther down Larkin.

"I am here to show my support in the fight against domestic violence and to make people aware that this is a serious issue that needs to be stopped," said Theresa Lombardie, JJC nursing student.

JJC nursing instructors Lora McGuire and Colleen Kestel-Branchow strongly encouraged their students to participate in this event.

"Domestic violence is really a public health issue, so that is why I think it is important for nursing students to be involved," said McGuire.

Blazer View

Practice your right for democracy--vote and have your voice heard

Come Tuesday, Nov. 5, citizens will have the chance to voice their opinions about local government when they go to the voting polls. Political candidates will be selected to represent the will of the people and make decisions on issues such as gun control, health care, abortion and human rights. These are strong issues that affect all U.S. citizens.

According to the 2000 census, the population of Will County consists of 502,266 residents. Of that number, only 293,884 registered voters for the March primaries. And out of those registered voters, only 33 percent turned out to vote for the primary election.

With low voter turnout, some people may ask why they should even vote, especially in nationwide elections where some feel as though their votes don't count. However, others feel that voting is an important issue that needs to be addressed.

"Voting is what democracy is all about, that's why we live here. It's our responsibility to vote," said Don Billings, a student at JUC.

Not only should students vote, they should also be proud that they have the right to choose the candidates who will represent them in the years to come. For example, in countries like Iraq and Cuba, people are stuck with dictators who answer only to themselves, not the general public.

However, some students feel that most candidates running for political offices do not represent the will of the younger voters. Students seem to care little about issues such as Medicare and retirement plans especially when college tuition is skyrocketing. Often times, students also feel that they cannot relate to the candidates themselves. The age gap between candidates and students may be just one of the barriers that needs to be crossed in order to produce higher voter turnout among students.

During Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign, he made an effort to relate to younger voters. For example, he appeared on the Arsenio Hall show and played the saxophone to show that even though he was running for the highest-ranking political office in the United States, he could still have fun. Clinton's actions to appeal to younger voters may have helped increase voter turnout in 1992.

According to USA Today, voter turnout grew by eight percent in 1992 when 37 percent of registered voters aged 18 to 29 cast their ballots, compared to 29 percent in 1988. Something candidates must learn is that they need to work harder to reach a younger audience. If they did, then students will most likely become more involved in the voting process.

While voting should be important to everyone, it often is not. There will probably never be a candidate who

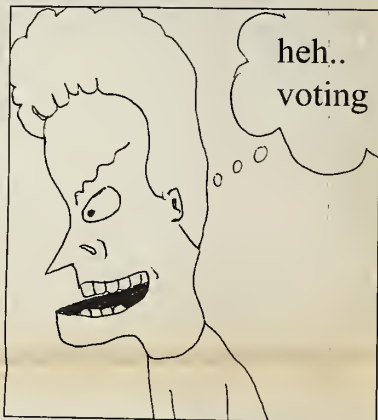
completely represents your views. However, it is still important to vote for the person who will best represent the issues that are important to you. This is why you should research the candidates before going to the polls. Then you will know who best represents your views.

In order to register, you need to be a U.S. citizen who is 18 years of age. You also need to present two forms of identification and reside in the precinct 30 days prior to the next election. Even though you had to register by Oct. 8 in order to vote on Nov. 5, don't become discouraged if you

forgot to register for this year's election. You can still register, so you will be able to vote in the next election. For more information or to find the registrar nearest you, please call the Will County Voter Registration Department at 740-4620.

For those who are registered to vote, the voting polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

You will still voice your opinion by not voting, but don't complain when the issues that are important to you are not addressed.



If Beavis takes time to think about voting, you should too.

Illustration by Chrissy Kozol

SPAM is more than just a nuisance

By David Ashby

Last summer, I went to Minnesota for a week and a half. As soon as I returned, I eagerly checked my e-mail to see if my employer had sent me some valuable information. Instead, his letter was in my inbox, accompanied by 199 junk e-mails. Like most other Americans logged on to the World Wide Web, I was (and still am) a victim of Spam.

Spam is computer lingo for those irritating messages that are sent out in bulk to unsuspecting recipients. In the process, it clogs up e-mail inboxes and discussion groups. Most of these messages are commercial, sent out by shady Internet corporations to hundreds and thousands of individuals and businesses.

Most people just shrug off these messages as just harmless and annoying nuisances. However, it is much more than that. For one thing, Spam is probably one of the only advertising techniques that cost the consumer more money than the advertisers. For example, according to spam.abuse.net, Internet-server America Online was receiving over 1.8 million spams per day from a single company. Assuming that it takes only 10 seconds for an AOL

user to delete just one of these junk e-mails, that adds up to 5,000 hours per day of manpower needed to delete all of these messages!

One study estimates that 70 percent of all of the e-mail that is currently floating around the Internet servers is junk e-mail alone. Sometimes the servers get so overloaded with all of this garbage that they are forced to shut down temporarily.

Obviously, spam is more than just harmless, annoying nuisances. It costs consumers and businesses money and time.

Many political leaders have already suggested plans to deal with spam. But in my opinion, the best solution to this problem is an extension of an existing law banning junk faxes. About ten years ago, legislators ruled that sending junk ads through fax machines was illegal because they clogged up the recipient's systems and cost them money, while the sender was charged very little.

Rep. Christopher Smith of New Jersey has proposed this plan to expand the law into e-mails. He also proposes that people can file suits for \$500 per message against the senders. This sounds good to me!

Of course, there are people out there who are fighting against spam

regulation. Obviously, these are the spammers themselves, who argue that regulation is a violation of their right to freedom of speech. However, the First Amendment only guarantees the right to speak your mind, not to be heard. In this country, we all have the full right to speak our minds anyway we feel, but that doesn't give us the right to force people to listen. Though spammers don't physically force people to read their ads, they do force people to listen by clogging up e-mail services and by costing people and businesses time and money.

So does the First Amendment protect spam companies from government regulation? In my opinion, hell no!

Of course you could always get some anti-spam software to prevent it from even entering your inbox. However, most are ineffective at getting rid of all of the junk e-mail.

For these reasons, the government needs to step in and start regulating spam. If somebody doesn't do something, then there is no reason why the number of spams circulating around won't increase. Who knows, next summer when I get back from my next trip, there could be 500 or even 1,000 junk e-mails sitting in my inbox.

Letter Policy

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at H-1015B.

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JJC graduate wins prestigious award for last year's innovative horror novel *Deadliest of Species*

By David Ashby

With the help of his vast collection of horror novels and comic books that he has accumulated since childhood, JJC graduate Mike Oliveri has definitely learned how to write great horror stories. On June 8 his knowledge of story-telling was recognized by the Horror Writer's Association. On that night, he was awarded the Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement for a First Novel for his book, *Deadliest of Species*.

Deadliest of Species is the story about a recently divorced man who travels west and encounters a small city called Rapture, which is completely controlled by witches.

Like most authors, Oliveri got his start as a writer when he was a young boy. A huge fan of role-playing games, he would often write fantasy short stories with his closest friends as the main characters. They were portrayed as heroes with many epic adventures, somewhat like the X-Men.

"It was the 1980s, and it was the time when every kid wanted to be Rambo or GI Joe," he said.

Unlike most horror novelists, Mike tends to shy away from using

supernatural elements to drive his stories.

"I tend to concentrate on the characters and plot more than the special effects," he said.

His two most favorite writers are Richard Layman and Jack Ketchum. He especially enjoys Ketchum's novels because his books feature "realistic horror", which means that the author draws the suspense not from supernatural subplots but from the motives and minds of the characters. This is how Oliveri writes as well.

When it comes to his career as a professional writer, Mike would like to go the whole nine yards. Currently, his agent is working to sell *Deadliest of Species* to a major publishing house. His next novel, entitled *Awakened*, is also up for sale. Mike hopes that he can get his novels published in either hardcover or as a mass-market paperback.

Originally born near Pittsburgh, Penn. in 1975, his family moved to Lombard when he was still a small child. Owing his junior year in high school his family then moved again, this time to Wilmington, where he attended Reed-Custer High School. He graduated from there in 1993.

After working as a retail manager at Circuit City, he attended JJC, where



Mike Oliveri

Photo courtesy of mikeloliveri.com

he was sports editor for the Blazer. He graduated with his Associate of Arts in December 1999. He currently lives in Gardner and works as the technology director at Gardner-South High School.

He has been married to Melissa for six years and in January, they had a baby boy named Timothy. Ironically, one of the mischievous nine-month-old's favorite pastimes is pounding on his father's computer keyboard.

Pretty much every writer uses their local environments as inspirations for their stories. For example, Stephen

King sets his stories in New England, James Joyce in Ireland, and Mark Twain along the Mississippi River. Oliveri is no different.

His expeniences while living in a small Midwestern town certainly shows in his work. *Deadliest of Species* has a strong sense of small-town America and his third novel, *Powerless* (currently in production), is set in a town much like Gardner.

He also gets his inspirations from the mass media, like magazine articles and television shows.

"Before I began writing *Awakened*, I read a *National Geographic* article about the South Pole while waiting at a discount auto tire shop. I took the information I got from the article and set part of the story in the South Pole," he said.

So it goes to show, inspiration is everywhere.

Oliveri has some valuable advice for other writers: "keep waiting, learn to take criticism and be patient." He also added that when you finish one project, immediately start another one. "Don't stop, just keep writing."

For more information, check out Oliveri's website at www.mikeloliveri.com. He will appear at that Fossil Ride Library in Braidwood on Halloween, Oct. 31.

News Briefs

Culinary Arts/Hospitality Department: The Culinary Arts Department will present the Second Annual Epicurean Festival of Food and Wine on Friday, Nov. 22, from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. at the Joliet Renaissance Center. The ticket price for this event is \$50 per person and reservations must be submitted by Nov. 1.

Fine Arts Department: The Fine Arts Department will present "New Works" of James R. White in the Laura A. Sprague Gallery from Oct. 7 until Oct. 31. The gallery is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Fine Arts Department will also host Musica Viva on Sunday, Oct. 20, at 3 p.m. in the theatre located in K-building. Pianist Myoungsun Hur will present classic works from Hayden, Hindemith, Liszt and Debussy. Admission to this event is free.

The Fine Arts Department will also host a faculty recital on Sunday, Oct. 27, at 3 p.m. in the theatre located in K-building. The recital will feature music by saxophonist Dr. Thomas Liley. Admission to this event is free.

Gamer's Club: There will be a club lock-in from 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 25, until 7 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26, in the Cyber Cafe.

Multicultural Transfer Center: There will be a Transfer Center Lunch and Learn with Lewis University on Thursday, Oct. 24, from 11 a.m. to noon in room J-0006. This event is open to any JJC student who is considering transferring to a senior college. The university will discuss topics such as financial aid, scholarships and answer any questions that a student may have. Lunch will be provided. For further information contact Angie Kayson Lutzbetak at 280-2449.

Office of Student Activities: There will be a book fair on Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Thursday, Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Office of Student Activities will also host "Seacake" on Wednesday, Oct. 30, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the center of the bridge.

Parapsychology Club: There will be a psychic fair on Oct. 31, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the center of the bridge.

Wellness, Inc.: Wellness, Inc. will be on campus Friday, Oct. 25 and 26, to provide flu vaccinations to staff and students. The cost per shot is \$12. To schedule an appointment, call the Wellness Hotline at (630) 723-0175.

Women's College: On Thursday, Oct. 17, the Women's College will present "More Than A Few Good Men," a presentation by Jackson Katz, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the theatre located in K-building.



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Say cheese! New photo IDs required for Cyber Café

By Matt Furlane

This semester, after several months of planning, the academic computing department has added another feature to the lab, a new photo ID pilot program designed to help students and increase security.

In addition to being funded by student technology fees, the Cyber Café is the only lab where students can talk, eat, play computer/video games and listen to music. The lab was created several years ago and was continually improved each semester with things like a pool table, vending machines and the latest gaming software. It is located in the D building.

The IDs are part of a new sign-in process that was designed to make the Cyber Café easier to use. Last semester students would go to the student service center or library to print out a

paper ID and then bring it to the lab where it was placed on the board with plastic holders on it representing an available computer.

This caused difficulties because students who were not signed in were using the computers, and students would frequently forget their IDs. Also, because there was no picture, anyone could show up with someone else's ID.

Now, students need to have their picture taken and have their name and student ID number filed at the lab and placed on their ID. If they lose their ID, they must pay \$5 to have a new one made or pay 50 cents if they leave it in the lab. When students arrive, they present their photo ID to the lab attendant and are issued either a numbered orange card for regular Internet use or a numbered green card for gaming computers. Each card is placed on

the upper right hand of the computer monitor where the student is stationed, indicating that they are legitimate users. This allows for the academic computing staff to quickly identify any student that has not signed in or does not belong.

"I've been very pleased. We've had very few complaints about it from students," said academic computing supervisor Betty Zarske. "A lot of people are enthusiastic about having a real ID."

Academic computing employee and gaming club adviser Rich Berrill has also noticed the program's effect on the lab.

"I would say the biggest benefit is we know who is and who is not a student in the lab. It's easier for us to manage the lab from that point of view. It's easier when a student comes in. They have to come up to the front so

we know that they're a student and it's easier to get them in and out faster."

But does the new process work for students?

"It's a lot easier. Now you can just look in the room and see which computers are open rather than trying to go up with the old system," said student Jim Stapleton. "I think it's really good. It's better than the old paper IDs that they had. The new ones are more efficient and look better."

Student Jeremy Dew agrees. "The picture IDs are better. I can't steal someone's ID and get on the computer... and there's less waiting around for computers."

However, he wasn't so happy about paying the \$5 fine for losing his ID.

"No, no. I don't like that. It's a little too steep."

According to Zarske, the fine is

designed to cover the costs for making the IDs (around \$2 each) and act as a deterrent to losing or mass-producing them. Last semester one student reportedly printed out over 50 paper IDs so he would always have one on hand. Also, students were frequently forgetting their IDs in the lab, leaving a stack of them by the end of each semester.

Zarske anticipates that an additional 500 IDs will be issued before the end of the spring semester. She also stated that the IDs, which are valid for four semesters, will be issued until something better can be implemented. But for now the current system is working well and helping students enjoy their experience using the Cyber Café.



QUESTION OF THE ISSUE: What was your best Halloween costume?



Megan Gilman
"The Pink Panther"



Melissa Anton
"I was obsessed with Will Smith, so I wanted to be a 'Woman in Black' from the movie Men in Black, but everybody thought I was a dead fight attendant."



Jenny Buffington
"A Coca-Cola can."



Pierre Palacios
"A pimp."



Melissa Urbanas
"Strawberry Shortcake"



Knuckles Kozol
"Michael Jackson's glove, I grabbed myself a lot."

Photos and copy by Jessica Harvey

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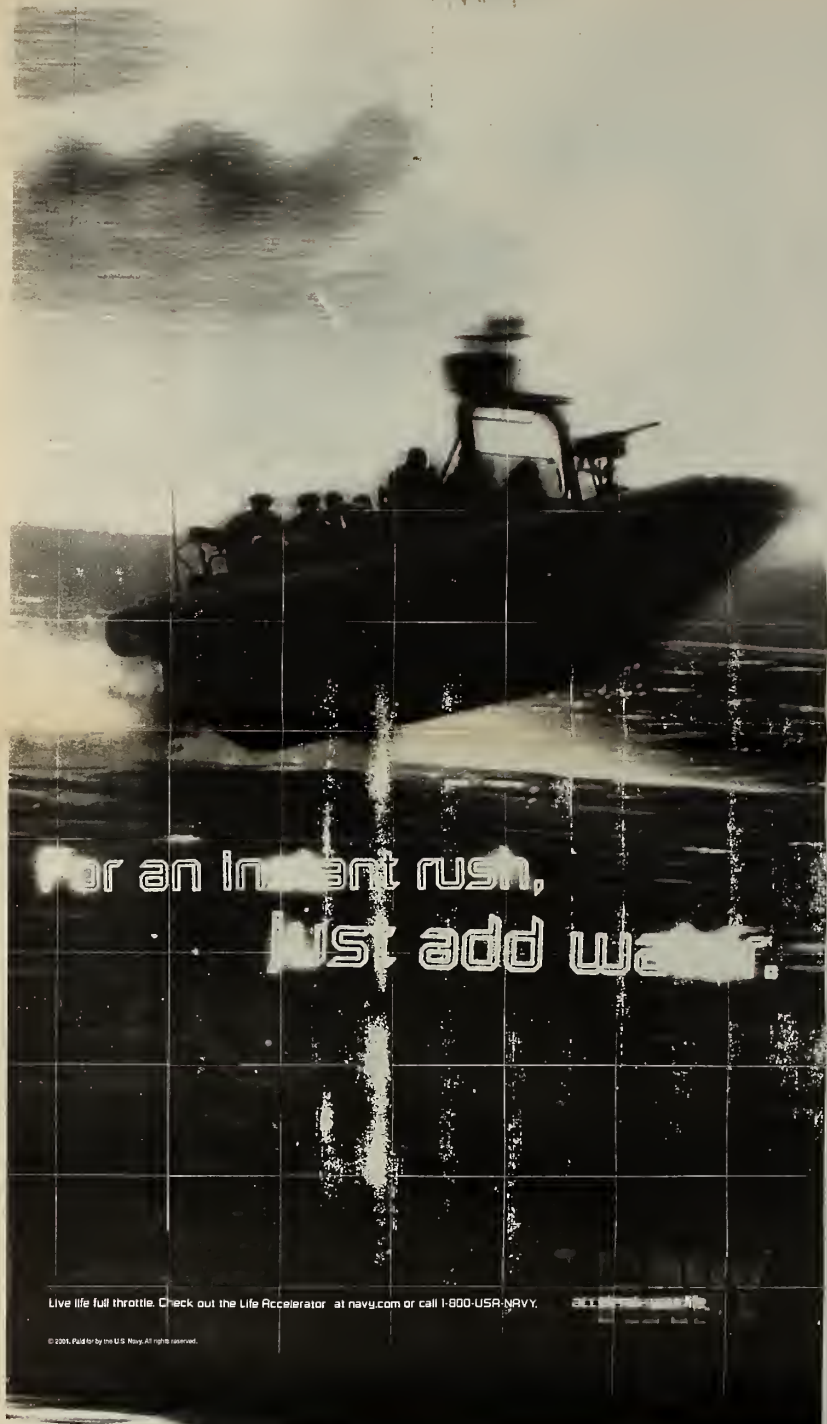
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Illinois governor's race heats up for Ryan and Blagojevich

By Joe Chinderle

It's 2002 and once again Illinois voters are preparing to go to the polls in November to elect the next governor of the state. The two candidates in the forefront of the election are Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan (Republican, seen below) and Congress-



man Rod Blagojevich (Democrat). Both of these men are native Chicagoans and have college de-

grees in law. Blagojevich graduated from Poppertine University in 1983 and Ryan graduated from Chicago-Kent University in 1971.

These two candidates have their hands full with important issues that the citizens across Illinois are concerned with, including crime, prescription drug plans for senior citizens and the quality of education throughout the state.

Of course the most important issue to college students concerns financial aid. Blagojevich has proposed a series of reforms that are designed to hold the line on increases in tuition

at state colleges and universities. He also wants to "simplify and streamline" the filing process for students who apply for financial aid.

According to Jim Ryan's website, his focus on education is mainly for students in grade school through high school. He supports the plan to hire more teachers for grades K through 12.

Another big issue is the state's budget. Ryan believes that the next governor of Illinois must bring integrity to state government and return sanity to the budgeting process. In his plan he says that the state must not spend money it does not have.

Yet, according to the Chicago Sun-Times, Ryan went to bat for Gov. George Ryan on steep salary increases for the governor's senior aids. Ryan crafted a little-known legal opinion in March 2001. It paved the way for more than two dozen of George Ryan's top staffers receiving pay hikes as high as 16 percent.

If elected governor, Jim Ryan will appoint a commission to review all the aspects of state government. Membership will come from many sectors of society, but he will draw heavily from the state's business community.

Blagojevich said, "The state's ballooning budget crisis is the direct result of years of misplaced priorities,



Democratic candidate Rod Blagojevich addresses concerns in Rend Lake, Ill. The governor's race is heating up as November rapidly approaches.

missed opportunities and mismanagement from the crowd that has held power in Springfield without interrup-

tion for 25 years and without concern for the health of our state." In his budget plan, he wants the

public to be able to see what their money is being spent on and having the plan for the public to see before any vote is taken.

Both candidates have had experience dealing with the criminal element of Illinois. Ryan was elected Dupage County States Attorney in 1984 and then re-elected in '88 and '92. His office started a statewide program that recognized the symptoms of domestic abuse in hospital emergency rooms. He also developed anti-gang initiatives, fought for legislation to stop child abuse and domestic violence and boosted protection for senior citizens.

As a Cook County Assistant States Attorney, Blagojevich prosecuted domestic abuse cases and felony weapons charges.

As November draws near, many people are still undecided about who they will support for governor. Both candidates have been spending a lot of money on TV ads. As of last week, Blagojevich was still leading the polls by about ten points although Ryan had closed the gap.



AFO-rockin' against poverty

By Justin Johnson

If you are looking for something new to do, think about looking around campus for special events. Last month, on Sept. 14, Action for Freedom sponsored the "Rock Against Poverty" concert.

Cost of admission was a non-perishable item, such as canned food or diapers. These contributions were donated to a local charity in the fight against America's impoverished.

While the turnout was small, the vibe was electric. Three bands performed on JJC's auditorium stage.

At 7 p.m. the three members of AKA took the stage first. The band's infectious drumbeats and vibrant punk

sounds set the upbeat tone for the evening.

Next on stage was the hard-rock sound of Tarnish. Members of this band helped to promote this concert and are members of Action for Freedom. Their set was hard and fast and included a creative cover of Coolio's "Gangsta Paradise."

Mama Green, winner of JJC's Battle of the Bands, finished the evening with their large ensemble of unique sounds.

The concert ended around 9:30. So, if you are looking for something to do in the upcoming weekends, check out what the campus has to offer. Concerts like this one are a great way to start the weekend.

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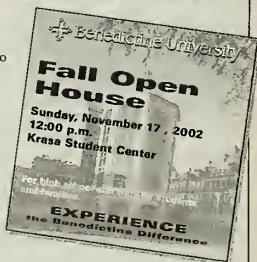
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One of the most haunted places in Chicagoland just miles away

Student reports on hauntings at Bachelor's Grove Cemetery

By Becca Hoge

On a late October evening, around 12:15, my friend Erica and I began our journey. Our destination was Bachelor's Grove Cemetery in Tinley Park. Our reason to go was to find out what the big deal is. Bachelor's Grove is a supposedly haunted cemetery, one of the many in Northern Illinois. The Grove, as it is referred to by young adventurers of the Tinley area, has been abandoned for nearly six decades.

An obvious clue to the possibility of haunted spirits was the lack of sounds in the surrounding wooded area. There were no sounds of any animals or insects. It was completely silent.

There is a range of headstones dating back as early as 1843 and as late as 1950. Some of them are so old the dates and names no longer are legible. There are only 20 or so headstones in the cemetery, none of which have been exhumed.

One headstone in particular does not have a name or year. It just says "Infant Child." The local folklore is that every visitor to this site is to leave a toy by the child's grave as a gift to its unrested spirit. There is a large

headstone next to the child's. This stone is around seven feet tall and about eight and a half wide.

Most of the headstones have been knocked over by disrespectful hooligans. There is one grave on the northern side of the site that always gets picked on. It has been dug up many times over the years.

As Erica and I explored the perimeter we found sleeping bags, blankets, pillows and flashlights that were left behind by some freaked-out kids. An obvious clue to the possibility of haunted spirits was the lack of sounds in the surrounding wooded area. There were no sounds of any animals or insects. It was completely silent.

The cemetery itself is only about half an acre square and is overgrown with weeds, but the woods surrounding it is about 10-11 acres. There are trails that run in all different directions through the woods. A small lake (about half the size of JJC's lake) lies on the eastern side of the cemetery. Legend has it that the infamous Al Capone would have the bodies of people that he had killed dumped into the lake.

The best time to go to Bachelor's Grove is during a full moon. The paths are illuminated by the glow of the moon, so you don't need flashlights. Also, because it is private property, the cops could give you a hefty fine. However, most of the time they just tell you to go home.

Bachelor's Grove is an intriguing place to visit if the ghostly realm peaks your interest. However, there are a few things you need to keep in mind be-



This grave of an unknown infant is surrounded with legends of ghastly caliber.

Photo by Becca Hoge

fore you venture out to Bachelor's Grove. First, don't go alone, you don't want to be in there. Second, you should carry a cell phone in case something happens. Third, don't expect anything, just go to experience the thrill and beauty of an old cemetery. Finally, you should bring a flashlight, toy and a note to leave.

These were just observations of one specific night. We did not see any mysterious figures or orbs. These words are purely to ponder and peek the interest of future parapsychology enthusiasts.

Again, if you go to Bachelor's Grove, be respectful. It may be haunted but it's still a cemetery.

Try these other haunted places for ghoulish good times



-Archer Woods Cemetery in Hickory Hills on the corner of 95th and Keam: Entry to this cemetery is very easy because the gates are never locked. The cemetery leads around in a circle and people report that when you leave the cemetery a white form blocks the entrance.

-The Congress Hotel in Chicago: There have been reports of objects floating through the halls. There are numerous cold spots and lights get mysteriously turned on and off.

-The Palmer house in Crystal Lake: Mr. Palmer ran an orphanage in the early 1900s. He beat the children to the point of death. If you put your ear to the door scratches, screams and stomps can be heard within.

-Resurrection cemetery in Justus: The home of Resurrection Mary, a hitchhiker who vanished in the '30s and can be seen walking around the cemetery at night.

-Elgin State Mental hospital: In the '50s before science really knew anything about mental health, they used Electroshock and cold therapy to "help" the patients. The campus is closed so if you want to visit this site you have to hop the fence and run from security to avoid paying a \$5000 fine.

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Resident reviewer Jason Baloun 'bounces' as he 'wonders what's next'



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Bon Jovi Bounce

By Jason Baloun

Two years ago Bon Jovi resurfaced and took the world by storm with the release of *Crush*. Now he wants to stay on top.

The latest release is *Bounce*, and it will have you doing just that. Following the Bon Jovi formula, the tracks are set up to have you moving

one minute and crying over your lost love the next.

The title track "Bounce" is one of the more upbeat songs, and it should be pretty popular with the pop crowd. The recent trend for musicians has been to pay tribute to the 911 attacks by writing some sappy songs of remembrance. "Undivided" is Bon Jovi's answer to that. It stays heavy and melodic, acting more like a message to live by, rather than a memory to forget.

Bon Jovi has always stayed true to the love ballads, and *Bounce* has

its share. "Love Me Back to Life" is probably the best of the three ballads, although I'm sure they'll all find a place in your heart.

Bounce is a solid rock album that puts you in a pretty good mood when you listen through it all the way. Bon Jovi knows the formula that works, and hopefully he'll keep using it.

Bon Jovi will be touring the U.S. in the late fall/early winter, so keep your eyes open.



Chevelle Wonder What's Next

By Jason Baloun

If you listen to Q101 or 96.7 Will Rock, chances are you've heard the song "The Red." Chevelle's first single has taken over radio stations across the nation, and you'll be happy

to hear that it isn't their best song.

Chevelle's sophomore release, *Wonder What's Next*, is full of melody and murderous screams. Pete D'Officer, the band's vocalist and guitar player, gives his vocal chords a good workout. He's assisted by bass player and backup vocalist Joe Loeffler. The steady drum beats, performed by Sam Loeffler, bring the music heavy.

Notice a similarity in the band members last names? Not only do they call Chicago their home—they're brothers. Isn't that nice.

At first listen, all the tracks seem to sound pretty similar. The more you listen to this disc the more you will find little things that make you like it. One major bonus is that it does not resemble any sort of rap-metal. It's real music through and through.

Wonder What's Next is being sold for less than most other CDs, about \$10, so support your newest local band that's made good.

Chevelle enjoyed a second stage slot on this summer's Ozfest, and is currently on tour with the Slipknot side project Stone Sour.

FROM 'RED' BY CHEVELLE

THEY SAY FREAK
WHEN YOU'RE SINGLED OUT
THE RED...
IT FILTERS THROUGH

SO LAY DOWN
THE THREAT IS REAL
WHEN HIS SIGHT
GOES RED AGAIN

Red Dragon breathes horror

By Matt Sheehan

*** 1/2

"A census taker once tried to test me. I ate his liver with some fava beans and a nice chianti."

It is perhaps one of the most chilling lines uttered in movie history and, quite possibly, the most terrifying phrase of the 90s. Just thinking of Sir Anthony Hopkins as Hannibal Lecter leaning against the side of his cell with his eyes focused on Jodie Foster's Clarice Starling uttering those words sends chills down my spine. The *Silence of the Lambs* is quite possibly one of the greatest films of all time. Unfortunately, ten years later, Thomas Harris finally wrote a much-anticipated sequel to *Silence* that was called *Hannibal*, the most ghastly, unappealing, despicable horrible film of 2001 (see Best & Worst

of 2001 on my web site). On the other hand, *Red Dragon*, the prequel to *Silence*, is much, much better. Director Michael Mann has already adapted *Red Dragon* into 1986's under-seen, low-key *Manhunter*. In fact, in *Manhunter*, Hannibal Lecter (played by Brian Cox) is only a low-profile psycho with only a few minutes of on-screen time. In *Red Dragon* director Brett Ratner (Rush Hour) expands the role for Hopkins' full-circle portrayal of Lecter. The film starts with Lecter as the noted psychiatrist who is about to be captured by FBI agent Will Graham (Edward Norton). Fast-forward a few years. Graham is in early retirement, enjoying life with his wife (Mary Louise Parker) and Lecter is behind bars. However a new serial killer named Francis Dolarhyde (Ralph Fiennes), nicknamed the "Tooth Fairy" is breaking into family homes, killing them, breaking every mirror in the

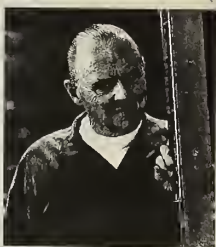
house and using the shards to imbed into the victims' eyes. Whoa!

So, FBI honcho Jack Crawford (Harvey Keitel) makes Graham come out of retirement to help hunt the "Tooth Fairy" down. As Graham begins to search for clues and leads, the editor to the tabloid *The National Tattler* (Philip Seymour Hoffman), who followed Graham when he captured Lecter, begins to follow him again. Meanwhile, Dolarhyde falls for a blind co-worker (Emily Watson) but goes to crazy because of his extremely screwed-up childhood.

A n d that is all you get my friends, n o t h i n g more and nothing less, of the plot that is. But what I will tell you is that the film is superbly done. However, it is a mirror image of *Silence* (Graham goes to talk to Lecter to attempt to extract information from him, much like Clarice Starling).

But what makes this different from other films is the suspense factor. Much of the anticipation is as strong and pleasing as that of *Silence*. Fiennes is perhaps at his finest. He has emerged as a talented film presence since his brilliant turn as a Nazi officer in *Schindler's List*. He is both creepy and scary, as well as sincere and almost alluring in certain scenes. Watson and Norton are equally impressive. Keitel, Parker and Hoffman hold their own. But who could forget Hopkins? The alter ego of Hannibal Lecter is as magnificently brilliant as he was in *Silence*. Last but not least, the score by composer Danny Elfman (*Sleepy Hollow*, *Spider-Man*) is appropriately creepy, spooky and dark—it's definitely an Oscar contender.

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Sir Anthony Hopkins as Hannibal Lecter

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Schoolhouse Rock

Local band White Hen Party rules the roost

By Craig Miller

Steve May should be happy. He's wanted to be a rock star ever since he was a little kid. Then he formed the local acoustic duo from Ioliet known as White Hen Party. With a little help from his partner in crime, Ron Robinson, the band began gigging throughout the Chicago/land area, southern Wisconsin and northern Indiana. In the process, they have built up a large underground following playing their brand of melodic rock and folk music that is somewhat reminiscent of the late sixties.

Ironically, Steve's childhood dreams became somewhat disillusioned along the way, because he has not taken to this underground fame very well.

"People look up to me a lot more now than they ever have before. I hate it because I am not someone people should look up to. I have the same faults everyone else does." But what Steve does not understand is that it is his down-to-earth attitude that draws

so many people to him.

It is late on a Saturday evening, and White Hen Party have just finished a stellar set at downtown Chicago's US Beer Co. The crowd, some 300 in attendance, gave the band quite the welcomed reception with a number of whoops and hollers. As Ron and Steve leave the stage after the set, they are nailed by a group of eager fans waving pieces of paper and black magic markers. Like truly nice guys, they both make sure and sign an autograph for each and every person, making sure that no one is left out.

"I really enjoy this part of the show," Ron says. "It lets me know that people really connect with what we are doing."

While Ron tends to enjoy doing this sort of thing, Steve looks a little less thrilled, and more like he is just going through the motions. It is almost as if there is something more going on in his mind. Even though Steve is loved by many fans, there is still something missing in his life.

"It seems really weird that I can

go out and speak my mind to hundreds of people whenever we play, yet I can't even talk to this girl I've wanted for a while now."

But the seriousness of that moment ends the minute Ron cuts in with his fake British accent saying, "I'll do whatever it is you want me to do, or I won't do nothing at all." Steve answers back with his accent saying, "Whatever it is that will please you."

This is just one of the highlights of the band's witty sense of humor.

"We're not very serious guys," says Ron, "so when people come to our shows, they better prepare for almost a comedy act as well as live music."

As the band prepares for its next big show, Nov. 22 at US Beer Co. on 1801 N. Clybourne in Chicago, it is apparent that the two are very grateful that their rock star dreams are coming true. And as for Steve, is he really happy?

"Of course. If I wasn't happy, I sure wouldn't be doing this I would be selling cigs on the street!"

~HOROSCOPES~

BY THE BLAZER STAFF



Aries

After watching *Friends*, you start to talk like a chimp. Repeat after me: Ooooh-ahhh-eee-eee!



Taurus

A ghost will follow you around Halloween week. Take caution- it's the dead "singer" of Milli Vanilli.



Gemini

If you swear that you see Jim Morrison after downing a bottle of NyQuil, seek help immediately.



Cancer

Don't judge a book by its movie-especially if Vin Diesel has a starring role.



Leo

Honesty is the best policy, but insanity is a better defense.



Virgo

Don't kick a man while he's down, unless you're sure that he won't get up.



Libra

Say you don't need money to be happy- try living without it!



Scorpio

You know the thing that you're missing most in life? Well, you left it on the kitchen table along with your wallet.



Sagittarius

Double check everything because you might forget to include



Capricorn

Remember that strangers always have the best candy.



Aquarius

Your Halloween plans will go awry when you run out of toilet paper. Ha!



Pisces

Be sure to not wear too much makeup on Halloween. Even hookers know when to give a rest.

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Photo of the Issue



Construction rockin' 'JC' during the month of September

Photos by Adam Marcus

Theater season opener demands attention for human rights

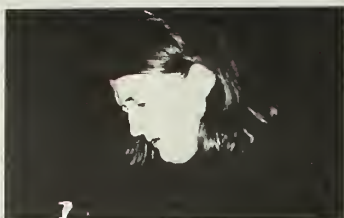
Production evokes feelings of sorrow and hope

By Katie Lindgren

From Oct. 3-6, JJC witnessed the opening of the 2002-2003 season for the theater department with *The Laramie Project*. To say the least, the production aimed to force the audience's attention to more important matters besides entertainment.

Written by Moses Kaufman, *The Laramie Project* is based on a compilation of over two hundred interviews and eighteen months of research that was conducted to better understand the beating, torture and eventual death of Matthew Shepard, an openly gay student of the University of Wyoming.

The story of Matthew's attack is told from a different point of view than what the national media portrayed. The audience came to relate to the



Brecca Hoge solemnly reflects at the *Laramie Project* post-production candlelight vigil.

Photo by Jessica Harvey

people represented onstage and they began to feel as if they knew Matthew a little bit better. Thankfully, the gravity of the event was lightened by some well-placed foul language. The sub-

ject matter was too difficult for some audience members to bear. However, Matt McNarsie and Chuck Bailey, two JJC students had nothing but praise for *The Laramie Project*.

"It's the second time I've seen it and the acting was well done, the script was well written. Basically, we need more of it," said McNarsie.

Bailey stated that he thought the story was "well thought out."

I couldn't agree more. The whole ensemble delivered one of the most solid and clean performances I have ever had the pleasure and privilege to observe. Well done to all, especially to director Clay Kirkland and technical director Nick Blowers.

In addition to the production, a candlelight vigil was held after the Saturday night performance to commemorate the four-year anniversary of Matthew Shepard's attack. The director of the ceremony made a great point that I wish to share with you as I wrap up this theatrical analysis.

"Instead of trying to suppress the differences between us, we should be celebrating the fact that we have dif-

ferences in which to be proud of," said Mike Roczysak.

I have nothing but admiration for the people who made this production possible, for they had the bravery to utilize the theatre as a forum to educate with *The Laramie Project*.



Matthew Shepard

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Arts Briefs

By Chrissy Kozol & Tiffani Shipp

The Theater: Coming up in November, the Fine Arts department will be performing *Evergreen*, a medieval morality play that was originally designed to teach children the ethics of the church. JJC will be taking a modern approach to this classic play.

The Music Scene (October): LL Cool J is set to release his 10th album, collectively called *10*. This album will be clean, meaning no cursing whatsoever (let's see how big that goes over). *10* will hit stores Oct. 15. Other artists with new releases to look out for in October include 31W, Memphis Bleek, Jaheim, Monica and Christina Aguilera.

Funky jazz man Beck will appear at the Chicago Theatre on Friday, Oct. 18. Beck is known to do wild things onstage such as dance around in sequin suits and pour milk on his head, so his visit to Chicago will most likely not be disappointing.

Dave Grohl and his Foo Fighters are touring Chicago, New York, and LA on a small three-show tour this month. They are appearing at the Metro on Saturday, Oct. 19 for an action-packed show filled with mayhem. Since the Foo Fighters generally appear at larger venues like the All State Arena, tickets are expected to sell out quickly, so if you want to take advantage of this opportunity, run like the wind to the nearest Ticketmaster.

The Music Scene (November): Justin Timberlake (*NSYNC) and Nick Carter (Backstreet Boys) have journeyed from their roots as members of boy bands to solo endeavors. Justin's new album promises to be filled with cool R&B hits. On the other hand, Nick is opting to play more of a rock sound. Jay-Z hits his fans up with *The Blueprint: The Gift and The Curse*, due out on Nov. 5. Speaking of feuding rappers, Nas is set to release his new album entitled *God's Son*, due out on Nov. 19. Other artists with new

releases to look out for in November include Kelly Osbourne, Pearl Jam, Sum 41, Missy Elliott and TLC.

Music legend Peter Dinklage is set to go on tour in November to promote his new album *Up*. Although Gabriel's last disc, *Us*, was released ten years ago, his fans haven't lost touch with their love for the musician. Surprisingly, Chicago is the only city where Gabriel has set up two shows on the tour (Nov. 12 and 14 at the United Center), so if you don't want to wait another decade to see Gabriel, be sure to get tickets as soon as possible.

Axl Rose is at it again. Heavy metal gods Guns N' Roses make their way to Chicago on Nov. 18 to perform at the All State Arena. Although the band consists of only two original band members, Axl Rose and keyboardist Dizzy Reed, the spirit of GNR is still running wild. The new lineup includes popular musicians such as guitarists Robin Finck of Nine Inch Nails and the mysterious Buckethead. Although the new GNR crew is talented, will they be able to outshine the original members on tour? Buy tickets to find out.

The Cinema: Rap fans may be in for a treat this fall because the highly anticipated movie *8 Mile*, which stars America's 'love 'em or hate 'em' rapper Eminem is set to be released. The semi-autobiographical movie, which co-stars Brittany Murphy and Mekhi Phifer, is due out in theaters on Nov. 8. The soundtrack is slated for Oct. 29.

Other new movie releases this fall include:

- Oct. 11: *Knock Around Guys*
- Brown Sugar*
- The Transporter*
- Punch-Drunk Love*
- Oct. 18: *Formula 51*
- The Ring*
- Oct. 25: *Jackass: The Movie*
- Nov. 1: *13*
- The Santa Clause 2*

JJC Wolves football team taking season by storm

By Adam Fox

When you think of winning college football programs, the first that usually comes to mind are Miami of Florida, Penn State or Michigan. But what about Joliet Junior College?

Saturday's 37-14 victory at College of DuPage ran this year's record to 6-0.

Last year the Wolves turned out an impressive 10-1 regular season record and won over Northern Iowa Area Community College in the National Championship. But was it all talent or just good luck?

"They are talented and they work hard. But luck is what happens when preparation meets determination," said head coach Bob MacDougall.

Whatever their secret is, the Wolves are winning, and making every game they face tremble. If you have any questions on how ferocious the team performs, just ask the players from Grand Rapids Community College, Illinois Wesleyan Junior Varsity or the College of DuPage. The Wolves blew them out by 30 points or more.

The main reasons for their 6-0 record include the offensive duo of quarterback Jim Peyton and wide receiver Kelvin Hayden. In the first five games alone, Peyton and Hayden connected 30 times for 571 yards and five touchdowns.

The defense is equally impressive. With playmakers all over the defensive side, it is hard to single out a single

position. The strength definitely comes from linebackers Darnell Lay, Ben Henderson and Mitchell Marshall.

"I'm very fortunate to have these kids," said MacDougall.

Currently the Wolves are ranked number five in the nation, and with a national title to defend, things are definitely not going to get any easy for the team.

Still, no matter what happens, they still have a solid group of talented sophomores and freshmen to bring back another national title to Joliet next year.

The Wolves' next game is on Oct. 18 against Air Force Junior Varsity at Joliet Memorial Stadium.



Chicago is not the only place that has traffic jams. Tailback Du Juan Johnson (#30) flies into the end zone over players from Rock Valley College.

Photo courtesy of the JJC Athletics Department

Men's soccer team exceeds season expectations

By Megan Gilman

The men's soccer team continued its winning inaugural season with a 2-1 victory over Rock Valley College on Oct. 3 and a 3-2 victory over Harper College on Oct. 8. With these wins the Wolves' record is now 6-2-1 overall and 4-1 in the N4C.

In the game against Rock Valley, Derek Beckham led the team with one goal and an assist to Fernando Garcia, who scored a goal of his own. Goalkeeper Marcos Rodriguez also played a great game, allowing only one goal and earning six saves.

Though they trailed 0-2 in the half while playing Harper College, Garcia, Eduardo Jimenez and Mike Verman each scored a goal in the sec-

ond half to win.

Coach Trillo was very pleased with the team's progress this year. "I am very pleased with the season so far."



The men's soccer team strikes a pose for a team photo.

Photo courtesy of the Athletics Department

For a first year program, I didn't expect to have a winning record. We have been a surprise for many coaches in our region."

Football: The Wolves' football team's next two home games are on Friday, Oct. 18, against Air Force JV and on Saturday, Nov. 2, against William Rainey Harper College. The home games will be played at Joliet Memorial Stadium on Jefferson Street. Their next away game is on Saturday, Oct. 26, against Grand Rapids Community College. The game will be played in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Volleyball: The Lady Wolves' volleyball team's next home game is on Thursday, Oct. 17, against Illinois Valley Community College at 6 p.m. Then on Saturday, Oct. 19, they will play in the N4C Conference Tourna-

ment at Triton College in River Grove. The tournament begins at 10 a.m.

Men's Soccer: The men's soccer team will play its last two games on Thursday, Oct. 17, against Morton College and on Tuesday, Oct. 22, against Triton College. Both games will be played at the Inwood Sports Complex in Joliet.

Women's Soccer: The women's soccer team will play its last regular season game on Thursday, Oct. 17, against South Suburban College. The game will be played at 3:30 p.m. in South Holland.

Lady Wolves tennis team ends season at regionals

By Adkins Jones

The women's tennis team's loss to Rock Valley College and the College of DuPage at the NCJAA Region 4/North Central Community College Conference on Oct. 5 has brought an end to their season. This is the first time in three years that Lady Wolves will not be heading

to the nationals, as they end the season with a record of 2-9.

The team, coached by Tim Vandewall, was not completely disappointed, realizing this was a very new team.

"We've improved a lot with four freshmen. We're rebuilding because we have only two returning players," he said.

The two returning players were sophomores Mara Krizek and Diana Rodriguez.

The freshmen were Dawn Branch, Amanda Dinges, Brigitte Johnson and Kierrea Richardson. Last year's team consisted of only five players, but there are typically six players to a team.

"We're a lot better team. This year is a stronger team physical strength wise," said Krizek.

This is evident in many close

matches they've played. The tough loss against McHenry County College on Sept. 25 was lost due to a forfeit because one player had to miss a match.

The team's two victories were to Waubesa College on Sept. 5 and to Kishwaukee College on Sept. 14. They won 6-3 at each match.

A highlight against Waubesa was Rodriguez winning her first set against Brooke Bartholomew. Dinges and Richardson won their doubles match against Courtney Rice and Becki Miller. Dinges went on to defeat Rice in a singles match. Also, Richardson went on to beat Miller in her

singles match. Waubesa finally had to forfeit due to missing players.

Although the season has ended for the women's tennis team, they still enjoyed the challenges and their teammates.

"Everyone gets along really good. We're all equal for the team," said Johnson.



Mara Krizek serves in a recent match. Photo by David Ashby

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JJC tastes the realities of alcoholism

By Megan Gilman

Peers Promoting Wellness sponsored the National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week from Oct. 21 to the 24. It was a week filled with stories, food and information that could change anybody's attitude on alcohol and drunk driving.

On Monday Pam Dilday, Peers Promoting Wellness sponsor, began the week by saying "if you feed them



JJC's student models wear goggles during National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week.

Photo by Adam Farnas

they will come, and they will leave with something." She was right. About 50 people stopped by the bridge on Monday to hear comedian Wendy Fox tell her story. They also enjoyed complimentary sandwiches and juice. Fox, who was fighting a touch of the flu, talked about her alcoholic family and the problems she faced when abusing alcohol. Though the topic matter was somber, she retained a sense of humor that made the crowd laugh.

"The presentation was good and

uplifting," said Jon Streich, a student in the crowd. "I especially liked when she said we should act a little more like children."

On Tuesday, Joliet police officers Ed Johnson and John Hank were on the bridge demonstrating a driving simulator and fatal vision goggles. The goggles were designed to show the user how an intoxicated individual sees the world. Hence, most participating students stumbled, shook and even fell over.

Participating students put on the goggles and were asked by the officers to walk heel to toe on a straight line and then count their steps. At the end of the line they were told to pivot and repeat.

"In the heel to toe test we are looking for a length of time it takes a person to walk, balance, the skipping of number, and how well directions are followed," said Johnson. Another test featured an officer holding a pen about 12 inches away from the person's eyes. Then, the person is asked to look to the left without swaying their head to the right. If alcohol has been consumed, the pupils will bounce back and forth.

"I thought I could do it easily. It makes you realize the cops do know what they are doing," said Adam Castillo, a student participating in the events.

The officers also posted a chart showing that the average cost of a DUI without a conviction is close to \$12,000.

Wednesday was by far the most emotional day. Mock trials were served and the students were able to hear first hand about the pain and anguish a drunk driver can bring to a family



This car is an example of what can happen if you drive drunk.

Photo by Adam Farnas

from Toni Wilda. About 10 years ago, Wilda's youngest son David, a 15-year-old high school sophomore, was walking with his new girlfriend on the corner of Jefferson and Wilcox in Joliet. Because his mother taught him to always be a gentleman, his new girlfriend was on his right side holding his hand.

Then, a car going 80 miles per hour in a 35 mile per hour zone hit David from behind, instantly killing him. The driver was 20-years-old and drunk, on his way to pick up more beer from a local liquor store.

Toni, who runs the local chapter of MADD, told how her son's killer only spent eight days in jail and then fled the country.

"I would not wish what I have gone through in the past nine years on my worst enemy, the man that killed my son, so if I can change one person's view by sharing my story, then I have done my part," said Wilda.

Thursday was a much lighter day. Students and faculty participated in a game of JJC Squares. The faculty members were asked a question about alcohol and the students picked a faculty member who they thought knew the answer, much like Hollywood Squares. The winning students were awarded with prizes.

"It was a lot of fun watching the teachers get involved with everything. It showed they cared," said Tricia Fournier, a student contestant.

The week raised a lot of awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving while intoxicated. The main point that got across was that if you are going to drink, then don't drive unless you're willing to pay the consequences. Toni Wilda summed up the week.

"An accident is something that can be prevented simply by not getting in a car after you have been drinking," she said.

BSU forum addresses the emotional issue of chaos

Chaos in the black community, in movies and from within discussed at forum

By David Ashby

On Oct. 17, the Black Student Union presented a highly charged forum called "Stop the Madness." This meeting was designed to address many issues that affect the African American community in the United States.

The topics discussed included chaos in the black community, chaos in African American identity, chaos in the movie industry and chaos between black men and women. According to BSU, chaos applies to negative and generalized problems.

"It is a necessity to educate ourselves before promoting awareness to others," said Chris Parker. Public Relations Director for the BSU.

Many prominent African Americans from JJC and around the community spoke at the forum, which included Maurice Fears, the director of Activities at the local YMCA, Terrance Williams, JJC's star football player and Lavon Pettis, JJC's student trustee. The moderator was Joshua Edmon, BSU education chairperson.



The members of the BSU came together to rise above stereotypes.

Photo courtesy of Barbara Farnas

Fears spoke passionately about the chaos in many black families. He stated that from his experience as the Director of YMCA Activities, he has learned that chaos begins early in a child's home life, including the lack of both parents in the household.

Williams was completely overwhelmed with emotion and desire during the meeting because he felt it was really great that the local African American community could get together and talk heart to heart about important matters. He also talked about the need to instill more Christian values into families.

Though there were disagreements

at the forum, most participants did agree on many topics. For one, many believe that the movie industry is a problem because often films do not portray the reality of African American life.

"People are classifying us by the movies," said Parker. "We need to rise to the occasion and address issues that depict a better image of our character."

Another major topic was imagery. The group talked extensively about how African Americans are viewed by others, as well as how integrity and beliefs in the black community have weakened over the last few decades.

In the end, Marcel Fears, youth minister at Redeem Church of God in Christ and a junior at Roosevelt University, led a group prayer with everybody holding hands. He also talked to the group, saying that African Americans do not have to be a product of their environments and that they could make it to prosperity.

According to the BSU, the forum was a huge success. About 60 to 70 people attended the event and most of them stayed throughout the entire hour and a half summit.

"Though there is chaos in the community, things do get better and we can make it, and we can make it," said Parker.

The Black Student Union's next forum is called "Time to Take our Village Back," and will be held on Nov. 7 on the bridge from 12 to 1:30 p.m. Parker said that the forum is open to everybody. He urges to come with an open mind and a willingness to speak.

To get more information about the Black Student Union, you can contact adviser Mildred Holmes at mholmes@jcc.edu.

Blazer View

Don't hibernate! Holidays and winter weather are no excuse for 'ditchin'

It's getting colder, it's getting dark earlier and it's probably getting easier to ditch classes. As the seasons change and the semester wears on, the temptation to slack off becomes very strong. Don't give in.

When this semester started back in August, most students didn't know what to expect from their new classes. They showed up, got the syllabus, formed their opinions of the teacher and went to the next class.

Days turned into weeks and weeks turned into months, but you went to class. Then one of two things happened, either you found out that you were doing well and stopped attending, or you figured since you were, doing so terribly you shouldn't waste

your precious time by going to class. Besides, JJC is only a junior college.

This brings us to another interesting point. It seems like a large portion of the student body doesn't really think of JJC as a "real" college. First year students think it's just an extension of high school and second year students are often disappointed to still be here. The credits transfer to universities because the classes are run in the same way and cover basically the same material. The only real differences are that the classes are cheaper, smaller and the teachers care a little more.

Class sizes get smaller as students peak and choose which days to attend. The students who were doing well start

to slip while the students who were doing bad do worse.

Now that the month of November is finally here, focus starts to shift from class work to the holidays. Thanksgiving gives students a nice two-day break that makes going to class the next week even harder.

Christmas is a completely different story. There are Christmas presents to be bought and parties to be set up in all of this hustle and bustle, many students tend to forget that they still have a few more weeks of school left. Plus, once Christmas thoughts get in your head, it seems like winter break couldn't come any sooner.

Another wintertime phenomenon is the psychological condition known

as Seasonal Affective Dysfunctional Disorder (SADD). Some people are psychologically affected by the cold dark weather that looms just around the corner. This condition seems to prevent a lot of students from coming to school.

Snow is another common excuse to skip class. You look out the window, see snow and go back to bed. You think, "I'm sure at least half the class is going to stay home, it's snowing out I won't even be missed." Well if the teacher could make it, he or she probably thinks you could too. If you had a huge party to go to, and it started snowing, you'd probably dig deep and find that extra courage which would enable you to drive in the terrible snow.

It's the 11th week of classes and you've made it this far—don't give up now. Wake up, go to class and really try to learn something. Getting better grades now will make it that much easier to transfer to a big university. Save the thoughts of Christmas and winter break for later, they'll be here soon enough.



The Blazer staff boycotts hibernation!

Analysis

Invading Iraq: A Necessity or Disaster Waiting to Happen

By David Ashby

On Oct. 10, Congress gave President George W. Bush the power to use military force against Iraq if necessary. This action by Congress is just another step that may lead to a major war in the Persian Gulf to overthrow Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and his regime.

In fact, some military experts estimate that the best time to launch a military attack would be from December to February. However, despite Bush's strong dedication, there are many risks involved that could seriously affect the United States.

The strongest case against an eventual attack against Iraq is the major harm it could do against the all ready unstable U.S. economy. The 1991 Persian Gulf War cost the United States and its allies \$60 billion, but the allies picked up 80 percent of the tab.

However, this time around the United States may have to go into Iraq without many of its allies. Plus, according to many economic analysts, if this upcoming war were to cost another \$60 billion, then the U.S. would probably have to pick up most of the bill. This could easily plunge our country into a serious recession, with oil prices skyrocketing through the roof. This recession could be even worse than the one after the 1991 conflict.

If Bush does invade Iraq, he risks alienating the U.S. from many of its allies, like Russia, Saudi Arabia, France, Turkey and numerous countries in Europe. These countries have expressed strong opposition to military action against Saddam Hussein and his regime.

The only two countries that have showed strong support for Bush's policy are Great Britain and Israel.

Bush's main goal is to destroy Hussein's regime and replace it with a democratic government. However, with the knowledge that Iraq has numerous opposition groups ready to take down Hussein, two things could possibly happen after a U.S. victory.

Either Hussein will be replaced with yet another brutal military leader or Iraq will become a country with fighting factions, each fighting for supremacy. No matter what happens, the United States will most likely continue to have constant problems with Iraq, even after Hussein is overthrown.

"We may need to stay in Iraq for a long period of time to ensure that there is some stability in the region," said Dr. Steven Buck, history professor at JJC.

The hostilities between the U.S. and Hussein began about 12 years ago. Despite our cooperation with Hussein during the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s, the relationship soon turned sour in 1990 when Iraq invaded the oil-rich country of Kuwait. This action forced

the United States and its allies to strike back in early 1991 in the Persian Gulf War, which ravaged Iraq but kept Hussein's regime in power.

Soon after, the United Nations imposed a series of economic sanctions on Iraq to help limit Hussein's power. According to the United Nations' Security Council's website, these sanctions have been heavily criticized by many Arab countries, as well as some Western countries.

"Most of the Arab countries do not support these economic sanctions, they do view them as oppressive to the Iraqi people," said Dr. Anthony Cuvilo, history professor at JJC. "However, if Saddam would do what we ask him to do, the U.N. could lift the sanctions tomorrow. So really, it is Saddam's fault."

After the Persian Gulf War, the U.N. also forced the Iraq leader to allow weapons inspectors to enter the country and dismantle any weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, biological, chemical, e.g.). Hussein allowed the inspectors in until finally expelling them for good in December of 1998.

Since then, new knowledge of Iraq's nuclear capabilities has been fuzzy. According to the U.S. State Department's website, Hussein has been pursuing nuclear weapons since before the 1991 Gulf War. According to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Iraq has an active program

to develop nuclear weapons and they have the knowledge and at least two designs to work from. However, the Bush administration cannot prove without a doubt that Iraq currently has nuclear weapons in its possession.

With the recent attacks in Bali and Moscow, many fear that an invasion of Iraq could lead to an increase in terrorist attacks against the United States and other Western countries. Also, there is the fear that an American invasion of Iraq could lead to major conflicts with the other Arab countries in the region, like Iran, Syria or even Saudi Arabia.

American citizens are deeply divided about this issue with Iraq. According to an ABC News/Washington Post poll, 69 percent of Americans do favor a war against Iraq. However, that

number drops to 57 percent if America's allies decide to back down.

Also, out of the 57 percent who support the use of ground troops, only 40 percent support it if there could possibly be heavy U.S. casualties.

It is clear by these numbers that most Americans support a war against Iraq only if there are no negative consequences against the U.S. Judging by the rocky state of the U.S. economy and the fact that the U.S. may have to attack Iraq alone and without many allies, a war with Iraq at this point in time without negative consequences seems impossible.

So whatever action the Bush administration decides to take against Iraq, it will certainly have far-reaching consequences for all who are involved.

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Variety is key in new clubs at JJC

By Sandy Redmond

There are five new clubs emerging here at JJC. Along with the electrifying Irish Dancing Club, there are the S.P.R.I.T.E. (Student Parents Resolving Issues and Transferring Education) Club, Hospitality Club, the Society for Precarious Balance and the Competitive Cooking (Culinary Arts) Club.

Many of the people who come to join the Irish Dancing Club are there for the joy of dancing. Its club members are looking to bring in outside dance troops and certified dance teachers for workshops. Lynn Eldred, sponsor of the J.J.C. Irish Dancing Club says they hope to "reach the people who have not heard of [us]."

Students with an interest in this club are encouraged to write Lauren Faye via e-mail, faylanya98@yahoo.com or Ashley Middleton, diechra@aol.com for more information.

The S.P.R.I.T.E. club is much different and was created to help support students who are also parents.

"Our club members have a unique need that doesn't seem to be satisfied in any of the traditional clubs on a typical campus," said Beverly Cavanaugh, assistant director for the Early Childhood Center and S.P.R.I.T.E.'s sponsor.

"We are not about things, part of our core belief is that there are many things that you can do together as a family that aren't going to cost a lot of money. We recognize students [who are] struggling to make ends meet."

S.P.R.I.T.E., with 16 members so far, is hosting an open house for interested student parents to learn more about the club. Their first family event "Keeping Families Safe, Keeping Families Whole," was held on Oct. 28

in J-building. Detective Allison of the Joliet Police Department was there doing child safety fingerprinting kits for parents.

On Nov. 13 there will be a family event geared toward humor entitled "Make Me Laugh."

With Vincent Foster as club president, Cavanaugh feels S.P.R.I.T.E. members bring a "sense of community, camaraderie and a sense of understanding" to the club. Though student parents are the target members for this club, S.P.R.I.T.E. is open to all students of J.J.C.

"We encourage students who are psychological or sociological majors or who are working within the child development field to come and find out about the real-ism of being a student and parent in college," says Cavanaugh.

The Competitive Cooking (Culinary Arts) Club, which already has 20 members, likes to keep things fun and entertaining.

"It's all for fun and learning," says Kyle Richardson, club sponsor. Along with the exchange of recipes, students will also participate in cooking competitions, the first of which was held on Nov. 1. Club President Aaron Deshotel does most of the planning and coordinating of the clubs events and oversees the club's meetings. Students are encouraged to enter this club even if they have no prior cooking skills.

The Society for Precarious Balance focuses on promoting juggling and other circus arts for entertainment, completing social service and fundraising. Their next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 12, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. in the De-Concourse.

Students keep on rockin' and learnin' at JJC

By Damon Wrona

In an attempt to educate the student body at JJC about the Nov. 5 referendum, the student alliance held a "rock the vote" concert in the student cafeteria on Oct. 30.

"We wanted to do our part," said Brooke Skeen, a student alliance member. "We want to educate the students on why they should vote and (explain) the referendum issue that's on the ballot."

The event featured free pizza and live music from local band Tarnish. The student alliance distributed flyers and pamphlets about the referendum and how to register to vote. A short video was also played during the bands intermission talking about JJC President J.D. Ross talking about the referendum's facts and its necessity to maintain JJC for years to come.

Ross, who attended and addressed the students at the event, stressed the



Local band Tarnish performing in the cafeteria on Oct. 30.

Photo by David Ashby

importance of our students getting out to vote on Nov. 5.

"We have 13,000 credit students," Ross said. "They could have a significant impact on the vote."

Ross also said that students not only help with their votes, but by educating friends and family as well.

Dr. Alan Hardersen, vice president for student services, also noted the need for students to get involved.

"This referendum is about the students," Hardersen said.

He noted that many students have to take night classes or take off-campus courses because of the increase in enrollment. He said that the referendum would help solve this problem.

"We have maximized our capacity," Hardersen said. "We need space."

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Transfer Center helps students move on

By Justin Johnson

For many students, enrollment to Joliet Junior College is a stepping-stone for an eventual transfer into a four-year university. A visit to JJC's multicultural transfer center in D1010 could help make that transition smoother for any student.

The center contains information on all matters of transferring credit hours. They provide pamphlets and packets with information on college admission workshops, as well as individual college specifications.

Their website offers additional information on colleges visiting the campus and provides links to applications for schools and for scholarships. There is also a web site that can be reached from all JJC computers: www.eef.org. This web site pulls catalogs for over 20,000 schools. The user is able to search the database by using criteria such as state, major, two-year or four-year colleges. The user can even search for universities with a big or small student body.

When asked about some things students should do before entering a four-year college, Carol Hamilton, secretary and advisor in the JJC multicultural-transfer center said, "Most important is to get your trans-

ferable (A.A. or A.S.) degree. It ensures the student of transferring more credit hours."

Additional guidelines that Hamilton suggests all students should try to follow include:

1. Choose your major early on. This will prevent a student from taking unnecessary, non-transferable classes.

2. Decide what school to attend. All schools have different guidelines for acceptable transferable credit hours. Knowing the school's policies will aid in the process and help things go a lot smoother.

3. Follow the I.A.I. (Illinois Articulation Initiative) for core curriculum requirements. The I.A.I. is a co-operative agreement among participating Illinois colleges and universities to regulate transfer of credit hours. Following the I.A.I. curriculum satisfies general education requirements at a majority of Illinois colleges and universities.

4. Work with a counselor. Working with a counselor helps to ensure that necessary requirements for transfer are met.

"Always work with a counselor, it saves time and money," says Hamilton.

'Dr. Bill' cures the computer blues

By Bill Bjerley

Hello and welcome to a new section in this paper. This section is dedicated to all people who have problems with their computers, no matter how big or small they may be.

First, let me introduce myself. My name is Bill Bjerley and I am a student here at Joliet Junior College. I have been working with and building computers since the late 1980s and have been programming since 1995.

With the knowledge of programming I have developed, I started an Internet development firm called PageDesk Incorporated. I find that everyone who has a computer has some sort of related question in the field of computer science. So, it was decided that it would be a great idea to start a column in this newspaper directly related towards this topic. It doesn't

matter if you are a novice, professional or just a student struggling in a computer science course.

I am asking everyone who has a question to email me at new@pagedesk.com. Or you may send them to the Blazer office in the JJC main campus. If you have any other questions, computer related or not, please feel free to visit my company's website located at <http://www.pagedesk.com>.

In addition, all questions and responses will be posted at this web address: <http://www.pagedesk.net/computergo>. Hope to answer some of your questions soon!

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Does your computer make you do this? If so, e-mail Bill so he can help!

QUESTION OF THE ISSUE:

Why do you think it's important to vote?



Cara Barnard

"I think it's important to vote because people need to take responsibility for how their government acts."



Jill Roebuck

"I think it's important to vote because if we don't speak up for what we believe in, it will never happen. If we don't take the responsibility to vote, then we can't complain about what our government is doing."



Mark Shutock

"I think it's important to vote because it is the ultimate way to express your political beliefs."



Meghan Fane

"I think it's important to vote if you know what you're voting about. For instance, there's few politicians who care to do anything about our high rate of sexual assault against women."



Rosan Mongado

"I think it's important to vote because it's a way of voicing or expressing yourself to certain issues that can change your life."



Price

"I think it's important to vote in local elections because presidential elections don't matter because of the electoral college and in local elections you have an effect on your community."

Photos and copy by Jessica Harvey



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Three JJC students arrested

By David Ashby

Three JJC students who resided at a Centennial Commons apartment were arrested in the early morning hours on Oct. 17 in connection with the robbery of two convenience stores. Brandon Bussey, 19, Philip Macklin, 22 and Willie Shannon, 19, each were charged with two counts of armed robbery.

According to Joliet police reports, the first robbery took place at 2 a.m. on Oct. 16 at the 7-Eleven on 3620 Commerce Lane. Two men entered the store and other stayed in the getaway car. Terrorizing the clerk at gunpoint, the robbers ran off with about \$116 and 15 packs of Black & Mild Cigars.

The second robbery was executed the next day around 3:15 a.m. at the Thornton's Gas Station on 2798 W. Jefferson. Luke the 7-Eleven robbery, two men held the clerk at gunpoint and

the third waited in the getaway car.

Around 15 minutes later, the Joliet police issued a description of the getaway car, and a Shorewood police officer spotted it and pulled it over near the Firestone Inn on 4200 W. Jefferson. When the officer searched the 1989 blue Lincoln, he found one handgun and a large amount of cash. Bussey, Macklin and Shannon, the three men in the car, were immediately arrested.

Later on that day at around 1 p.m., the Joliet police ap, filed a search warrant to search Apartment 612 of 1520 Centennial Drive, where the three suspects lived together.

"We did find evidence to link them to one of the robberies," said Joliet Police Commander Fred Hayes.

According to the Will County State's Attorney's Office, bond has been set for \$500,00 for each suspect and the preliminary hearings are scheduled for Nov. 8 at 9:30 a.m.

Violence against women more than a feminine issue

By Jessica Harvey

On Thursday, Nov. 17, anti-sexist male activist Jackson Katz let students know that violence against women is not just a "women's issue." He presented his program "More Than a Few Good Men," which focused on how men's attitudes towards violence against women need to change.

At the start of his presentation, Katz asked the males in the audience if they had a mother, sister, aunt or a female that they cared about. Since every male in the audience raised his hand, Katz made the point that violence against women is not just a "women's issue" because the violence affects the women that men care about.

"These are issues that affect everybody," said Katz.

He also stated that violence against women affects both sexes because men are most often the perpetrators of violence against women and other men as well.

Katz then went on to do a demonstration about the precautions that people use to safeguard themselves from potential perpetrators. Both the men and women in the audience were asked to tell about everyday measures they take to protect themselves. While men couldn't think of any, the women in the audience thought of enough precautions to fill up an entire case-sized piece of paper.

Screening phone calls, carrying cash, programming 911 into cell phones and refusing to accept drinks from strangers were just some of the everyday measures the women in the audience listed to protect themselves.

Katz wanted people in the audi-

ence to be aware of the fact that women live in fear of being attacked, while most men don't even think about protecting themselves from members of the opposite sex.

Katz also showed scenes from his video *Tough Guise: Violence, Media, and the Crisis in Masculinity*, to demonstrate the harm that over exaggerated masculinity has on the male and female population.

Katz was a former all-star football player and the first man to earn a minor in women's studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

He received his Master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where his research concentration focused on the social construction of violent masculinities through sports and the media.

He is also the founder and director of MVP Strategies.

People from different backgrounds come together to celebrate their heritage at Enlace Culture Night

By Adkins Jones

The music drew the audience's imagination to a time before the arrival of Christopher Columbus. The instruments recreated the sounds of the jungle. The musicians spoke a language native to the Americas, but to some it sounds as foreign as Chinese, French or Russian dialects.

These were just some of the many attractions at the first ENLACE Cul-

ture Night in the JJC Theater on Oct. 12. The night's events were held by the Engaging Latinos for Continuing Education Scholar Program (ENLACE) for the celebration of Dia de la Raza, a day that coincides with Columbus Day. However, its focus is on the Native American cultures.

Rocio Zamudio, an ENLACE Scholars member, said that Columbus Day is controversial in Mexico and other Latin American countries.

"We're not celebrating Columbus

Day, we're not celebrating the Conquista," she said. However, Zamudio is also quick to point out that the Cultural Night was not meant to stir controversy.

"(Our) main goal is to still show ties to pre-Hispanic cultures," she added.

The group Raiz Viva performed and gave a sense of what some Native American music sounds like. The group consists of six musicians who play indigenous instruments of what

is now Mexico and speak Nahuatl, the language used by the Aztecs. They were dressed in native garb, and some of their jewelry was used as instruments.

The other group to perform was Africambe, which had eight members, including five women clothed in traditional dresses from colonial Cuba. They performed various types of music and dances from Cuba. Their music is a mixture of many Latin sounds. However, they are greatly influenced

by the African drums from the slaves who were imported to the island centuries ago. They also gave the history of how the forms of Latin music evolved.

After the show, there was a party held on the bridge where Raiz Viva's CD was available for purchase.

Zamudio is very interested in doing this event again next year.

"(It's good) to look back and see where we came from and take note of civilizations," she said.



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News Briefs

Campus Police: The Rape Aggressions Defense Systems will be holding two 12-hour courses in self-defense tactics to prevent sexual assault in the coming months. The classes are open to women ages 16 and over. Classes are offered on four consecutive Thursdays for four hours each class. Classes are on Nov. 7, 14, and 21 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Classes will also be offered again on Dec. 5, 12 and 19 at the same time. There is a one-time fee of \$25 per person. Classes are limited to 10 people per class. For further information or to make reservations for a class call 280-2234 and ask for Officer Joe Sikora or CSA Jennifer Irigoyen.

Fine Arts Department: The Fine Arts Department will present an exhibit that features area JJC high school artists in the Laura A. Sprague Gallery from Nov. 18 through Nov. 27. The gallery is open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Fine Arts Department will also present Everyman on Nov. 7, at 7:30 p.m., on Nov. 8 and 9 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 10, at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices for this event are \$5 for the general public, \$4 for senior citizens, non-JJC students, JJC Faculty and Staff and \$2 for JJC students. For reservations or more information, call 280-2200.

The Fine Arts Department will also present Musica Viva on Sunday, Nov. 24, at 3 p.m. in the theatre located in K-building. Admission to this event is free.

Gamer's Club: There will be a club lock-in from 6 p.m. on Saturday Nov. 16, until 7 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 17, in the Cyber Cafe.

Multicultural Transfer Center: There will be a Transfer Center Lunch and Learn with Governors State University on Thursday, Nov. 7, from 11 a.m. to noon in room J-0006. Another Lunch and Learn with Olivet-Nazarene will be held on Friday, Nov. 8 at the same time in room J-2012. This event is open to any JJC student who is considering transferring to a senior college. The universities will discuss topics such as financial aid, scholarships and answer any questions that a student may have. Lunch will be provided. For further information contact Angie Kayser Luzbetak at 280-2449.

Office of Student Activities: There will be a Tastes Words and Sounds featuring the music of Stole on Wednesday, Nov. 6, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the center of the bridge.

The Office of Student Activities will also have a Comfort Zone on Tuesday, Nov. 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the bridge.

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Appetite for Reconstruction: Guns N' Roses is finally back

By Michael DiVecchio



Axl Rose's flowers have not wilted since the '80s.

At a time when the music industry has become overrun with bubble gum and pretension, Guns N' Roses, the last great American rock band, has decided to come to Chicago on the first leg of their North American Chinese Democracy tour for a one-night only engagement at the Allstate Arena.

However, many reports say that Guns N' Roses is not coming to Chicago. These reports are only half-right. To be sure, Axl is out front, but the lineup similarities end there.

The band is now comprised of guitarists Buckethead, Robin Finck (Nine Inch Nails) and Richard Fortus (Psychedelic Furs), bassist Tommy Stinson (the Replacements), drummer Brian "Brain" Mantia (Primus), and keyboard players Dizzy Reed and

Chris Pitman (the Replicants).

Does the new lineup rock? It does, very much so. The new GN'R closed out August's MTV Video Music Awards in what was an extremely well-received performance. Admittedly, Axl's vocal styling's might have been a bit off at the beginning, but upon closer examination he could be seen fiddling with his microphone and earpiece until halfway into "Madenascar," at which point he hit a groove and stayed there. The band played loud, hard and heavy throughout it all, and turned in a convincing television debut.

But where did Duff McKagan and Matt Sorum go? Where's Izzy? And what about Slash—will Axl ever speak to him again, let alone rock with him again? Much has been made in the press over the past few years of their legendary fallout. Slash says that as late as last New Year's Eve he tried to attend a new-lineup GN'R concert in Las Vegas but was barred from entering. In an August press release, Axl had few kind words for the man:

"It seemed to me that anytime we got close to something that would work, it wasn't out of opinion that Slash would go 'Hey, it doesn't work,' but it was nixed simply because it did work. In other words, 'Whoa, wait a minute. That actually might be successful, we can't do that.'"

Later, Axl added, "Now people

can say, 'Well Axl, you're after control of the band too.' You're damn sloppy. That's right. I am the one held responsible since day one. When it comes to Guns N' Roses, I may not always get everything right but I do have a good idea about getting things from point A to point B and knowing what the job is that we have to do."

And he's right. Of course, anytime a Guns N' Roses article appears in the media there must be the requisite mention of Axl being an immature, ego-driven megalomaniac. But so what? From the beginning, Axl Rose has been the genius behind the micro-

phone, the driving creative force behind the writing and the man who has done more to craft the hard-edged, gritty Guns N' Roses image than anybody else. The GN'R legacy belongs to him, both intellectually and legally, because he has fought and bled for it.

The new lineup has been carefully selected, holed in the recording studio and in the sporadic concert appearances of the past two or three years. They have played in South America, Japan, China, Belgium, England and a host of other locales, always to a crazed reception. Now Guns N' Roses is finally returning to the United

States, playing most venues on the tour for the first time in nearly a decade. The time-sayers will say that this tour represents nothing more than the "Axl Rose Show," a desperate attempt at glory by a vindictive rocker past his prime.

The truth, however, is simple: Guns N' Roses, since *Appetite For Destruction*, has always been the "Axl Rose Show." And Axl has yet to disappoint.

Guns N' Roses will be performing at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont on Nov. 18.

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Upcoming films that will keep on giving this holiday season

By Matt Sheehan

Oh, the weather outside is frightful. But the popcorn is so delightful. So if you have no place to go, then why don't you check out some of the latest films set for release in the upcoming holiday season.

First up is the sequel to Tim Allen's first major film, *The Santa Clause 2* (opened Nov. 1). Once again, Tim Allen does the big, red suit. The premise this time around? He needs to get married. All I hope is that this sequel is not just another Xerox copy of the original.

The Santa Clause 2 will be on my list right below *Star Wars: Episode II: Attack of the Clones* because *Episode II* comes to IMAX on the same day.

Also coming in November is the highly anticipated *8 Mile* (Nov. 8), rapper Eminem's film debut. Based upon

prior buzz, the film is shaping up to be high in quality, especially Mr. Em's performance.

And to round out the month of the turkey, sequels of two extremely successful film franchises come out as well, first with *Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets* (Nov. 15) and then with the 20th James Bond film, *Die Another Day* (Nov. 22).

For *Harry Potter*, fans of both the books and first film will flock to theaters and most certainly make it the highest grossing film of its opening weekend, possibly the entire year.

The following week will bring *martinis* (shaken, not stirred) and über babes galore with the new 007 flick *Die Another Day*. The big question is how much longer will Bond be able to keep blowing things up and getting nasty between the sheets? Brosnan has expressed thoroughly that the series has run its course, and



Is that a gun in his pocket, or is it just happy to see you? Find out this holiday season!

that Bond should be killed. I don't think Money Penny would like that...

As the winter season continues into December, audiences will be hit again with a mess of sequels. First up is *Analyze That* (Dec. 6), the sequel to

the hilarious 1999 hit, *Analyze This*. Unfortunately, this looks to be—yet again—another Xerox sequel. Just watch the trailer, and you'll understand.

But then, on Dec. 13, for all you Klingons, *Star Trek: Nemesis*, the 10th and quite possibly final *Star Trek* film outing, will beam down to theaters.

On Dec. 27, the film version of one of the most beloved musicals, *Chicago*, comes to the big screen with Renée Zellweger, Catherine Zeta Jones and Richard Gere. Early buzz shows this will be a critical hit, if not a box office one.

On Christmas Day, Leonardo DiCaprio returns to the screen in Steven Spielberg's *Catch Me If You Can*, a film based around a real-life con artist who impersonates a doctor and an airline pilot, among other things—all while he is still in high school. The film centers around Tom Hanks as some sort of federal agent trying to catch him.

Finally, the two biggest film coming out in December—or even the year—are Martin Scorsese's long-

awaited, 25-years-in-the-making *Gangs of New York* and the second film in the *Lord of the Rings* saga, *The Two Towers* (both Dec. 20).

Gangs of New York stars DiCaprio, along with Daniel Day Lewis and Cameron Diaz. This film is the first ultimate must-see film of the season. Opening the same day, *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, proves to be as marvelous as the original. Now, the first *Lord of the Rings* film was great and I believe that this is one of the few sequels in the history of cinema that will be better than the original.

So there you have it. Wrap 'em up, put a bow on top and watch out for paper cuts because this holiday season will be one that will keep on giving.

Check out Matt's Movies & TV reviews! Email him your reviews of films! And look for some "Best of..." lists—Coming Soon!

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E.T.'s DVD phone home

Remastered film classic *E.T.* available for limited time on VHS and DVD

By Nathan Bauer



E.T. says, "E more!"

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Both the original 1982 version and the recently released 2002 remake of *E.T.* are feature in the set. There are many features, which includes a

reunion of the cast and crew, a 25 minute documentary about the making of *E.T.* and the March 16, 2002 performance of John Williams' Oscar-winning score at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. But of course, the DVD would not be complete without movie trailers, archive footage, interviews and an introduction by Spielberg himself.

The film *E.T.* is a heart-warming story of a boy named Elliott (Henry Thomas) who befriends an alien who is stranded on Earth. A very young Drew Barrymore plays Elliott's little sister Gertie.

This is a very good movie and is so cool to own if you have a DVD player or just love the story of *E.T.* The film is a must for everybody, because it is impossible not to love this cute little alien who comes down from outer space to touch the lives of a little kid and his family. You should get this DVD before Dec. 31, 2002, because after this date, the studio will pull the film out of circulation.

Hot new CD features Chicago's best and brightest

By Craig Miller

It only took three months to do, but by golly it's finally here. That's right, the next installment of the Rock Chicago compilation CD is now available to the public. The second volume, entitled Rock Chicago Volume 2, was officially released on Oct. 13.

The Rock Chicago compilation series was created by Villa Park resident and local music buff Mark A. Puga.

The CD consists of local bands in the surrounding Chicago area and suburbs and features music by Witroy, The Lost Boys, Logan's Loss, Starstruck, By Any Means, August Premier, P.x.L., Knuckleduster, Best Days Behind, Alpha, The Plain White T's, Braile, Former Teenage Idols, The Skyline Drawing, Switchblade Romance, 3Dimensional Stiek Figures and Farewell Society.

"There are thousands of bands in

the Chicago land area fighting for recognition," said Puga. "I'm just trying to help give a little promotion to some of the ones I've discovered that I like."

The whole concept of creating the Rock Chicago series is to help promote local bands. However, the process of creating the CD was a little more demanding than one would expect.

Each CD takes Puga about three months to do and involves several steps before completion. To get the ball rolling, he must choose the bands he wants on the album, select a song by the artists, get the music from them, make CD covers, put the songs in some "rational" order, book shows to promote the release of the compilation and finally mass produce the CD.

Even though it involves a lot of hard work, Puga seems to get a lot of satisfaction from putting out the compilation CD's.

"The most rewarding part is see-

ing a band get some recognition from being on the comp [compilation CD]," says Puga. "Whether that being other bands wanting to do shows with them, an increased fan base, getting offered better shows, or recognition from a label to name a few."

The Rock Chicago Volume 2 compilation CD is available at Tower Records on 383 W. Army Trail Rd. in Bloomingdale, and can also be ordered through Mark Allen at chesedog18@aol.com.

There will also be a show on Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Elk Grove Community Teen Center on 150 John F. Kennedy Blvd. in Elk Grove Village to help promote the release of the album. It will feature several bands, including The Lost Boys, Former Teenage Idols, By Any Means, Knuckleduster and P.x.L.

Rock Chicago Volume 3 has a tentative release date for March 2003.

The Hollywood Second

By Tiffani Shipp

All right people, here's the dirt on some of Hollywood's biggest and brightest stars. To begin, Nick Carter of the Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears are a couple. According to *US Weekly*, the two have been doing everything to keep photographers from taking photos of them.

What we are on the subject of is photo boy band members, Britney's ex-cousin, Justin Timberlake of N Sync, seems to be doing just fine without her. The 21-year-old has been linked to Janet Jackson, Alyssa Milano and Christina Aguilera told the British press she and Justin are just friends.

Now we move on to the court case involving Winona Ryder in California. Though the drug charges have

been dropped, the movie star still faces charges of grand theft, vandalism and burglary. She remains free on \$20,000 bail, pending the verdict in her trial.

Eminem's ex-wife Kim and a close family friend named J.R. Watkins have written a revealing tell-all book called *Cleaning Out My Closet* (available on Amazon.com). The book goes into great detail about the personal life of Eminem and the destructive relationship with his ex-wife.

Watkins appeared on a local Detroit radio station to talk about and promote the book. After she left the studio, Kim called the radio station to clear up matters that were discussed on the air. Moments later the birthday boy himself, Eminem, called in and agreed with everything his ex-wife had to say. He seemed upset and basically said the book was full of lies.

Red Faction II blows away its predecessor



Red Faction II

Format: PS2

Players: 1-4

7/10

By Danae Wrona

When Red Faction came out a couple years ago for PlayStation 2, it received critical and commercial acclaim. It was the first next-generation first-person shooter (FPS) out, and the software-starved PS2 gamers gobbled up the game immediately. It had above average graphics and included a "destroy anything" feature where you could blow a hole in just about anything.

However, the market has changed a lot since the original Red Faction was released. Two new systems have been released since then and the FPS genre has improved immensely after the release of Halo for X-Box in 2001. So what does Red Faction II do to try and live up to the bar that Halo has set? A lot actually.

Red Faction II is much different than its predecessor in many ways.

Graphically it's much better. The dark look of Red Faction has been replaced by bright, crisp visuals that are much more easy on the eyes. You can still put a hole in just about anything in this game, which is still cool but not nearly as cool as it was two years ago. The game is also much more graphic than before. Shoot a grenade at a soldier and you're left with two bloody stumps on the floor that used to be legs. It sounds good as well, with lots of friendly chatter coming from your team members.

The Red Faction II controls are exactly the same as its predecessor, so getting new here. Fairly tight controls will help you in the intense battles you will face.

The story in the game is new as well. You now are part of a defected group of soldiers, who each have a special ability (sniper, explosives, etc.). The story has many plot twists that keep the story fresh, which is another improvement. Also, the finale is an improvement over the original.

If you own a PS2 and are looking for an above average FPS experience, Red Faction II is certainly worth a look. However, it doesn't compare to the far superior X-Box game Halo.

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BY HARRY BARNABY THE MYSTERY SQUIRREL



Aries- Sniff before you lick because things today may not be all roses.



Libra- Put those clouds in your coffee and let the sun shine through.



Taurus- Let your stress out on others today, for Mr. Squirrel never stores all his nuts in one nut sack.



Scorpio- This weekend go out and cut a rug, Lenny... try the lumberjack twist.



Gemini- Life is like potato salad. Spread it around and have a picnic.



Sagittarius- Your white mouse will not explode.



Cancer- Grilled cheesy macaroni makes your funny face breakfast roasty fine.



Capricorn- Starve a cold, feed a seagull.



Leo- Remember, you were born to entertain, so look at the person next to you and say, "I was born to entertain."



Aquarius- You can dig a hole, but you can't bring your hole in the house. (I'm speaking in metaphor again).



Virgo- Remember when tootsie rolls came in a bank, well those days are gone... move on. (I'm speaking in metaphor).



Pisces- Your day may smear with surprise, like a bored monkey in a zoo. Make the best of what you have.

Three CDs that nearly reach 'nirvana'



Lacuna Coil
Comalies
****1/2
By: Jason Baloun

If you've never heard of Lacuna Coil, you are not alone. I wasn't familiar with the band until I received a compilation disk from Discount Records in Frankfurt. I was immediately drawn to two songs from *Comalies*, "Swamped" and "Heaven's a Lie."

Lacuna Coil sounds like nothing I've ever heard before. They find a way to blend heavy guitar riffs with melodic vocals. On other tracks they pick up the pace and assault your ears from every angle.

The band uses two lead singers, Cristina Scabbia and Andrea Farro. Having both a male and female singer allows them to do unique layering of lyrics and give their songs that mystical quality.

Cristiano Migliore creates complex guitar progressions and encompasses multiple styles of play. Marco Cotizlati, on bass guitar, and Cristiano Mozzati, on drums, keep the music alive and breathing.

All the members of Lacuna Coil are from Italy, which explains why they don't get any radio play here in the states. Every track is just as good as the one before it, but there are two songs that defiantly stick out on this CD.

"Heaven's a Lie" is a perfect example of what this band can do with all of their own talents. They take a strong instrumental introduction and then add the beautiful voices of Scabbia and Farro. This song could be a hit single here in the U.S.

"Angel's Punishment" is the heaviest song on the album, showing a different side of Farro's vocals. He can growl with the best of the metal gods. What makes this song different from most metal songs though is that Scabbia keeps her voice calm and passionate.

Rumors have Lacuna Coil starting a U.S. tour sometime in March. It should be a fascinating spectacle of the bizarre.



Nirvana
Self-Titled

By: Jason Baloun

Last year rumors circulated about a huge three-CD box set from Nirvana which was supposed to hit the shelves just in time for the Christmas season. Then things went bad. Courtney Love, the widow of Kurt Cobain, stepped in and dashed the hopes of all Nirvana fans.

Love took the two remaining band members, Dave Grohl and Krist Novoselic, to court. She claimed that they were trying to make money off of her dead husband's fame, and that he would not have wanted the box set. Grohl and Novoselic countered stating that they were actually in the band and that they want the fans of Nirvana to have the chance to hear all of the unreleased material.

This 14 track CD is the final result. Only one previously unreleased song, "You Know You're Right," appears on the album.

The rest of the CD plays like a greatest hits collection. That's not such a bad thing, but when you consider what could have been, it seems like a disappointment.

The songs play in the order of their releases. A previously unreleased mix of "Penny Royal Tea" isn't far from the original, but sounds a little cleaner.

"You Know You're Right" is a very powerful song. It has the unmistakable vocal sound of Kurt Cobain. You can hear every word as it rolls out

of his mouth through clenched teeth. The sarcasm and contempt is so strong you can almost taste it. It was recorded on Jan. 30, 1994, and is the last song Nirvana ever made. Cobain sings, "Things have never been so well, I have never felt this well." Less than three months later he was dead.



Christina Aguilera
Stripped
****1/2
By: Tiffani Shipp

Christina Aguilera's new album, *Stripped*, is a change of pace for the pop star. Filled with personal testimony, *Stripped* was made to get to know the real Christina. The song that stands out the most is a track called "I'm OK." This song is incredibly emotional because it discusses the trials that she encountered while growing up.

Many other songs deal with her personal life and how she is perceived in the media. She tackles this issue in the song "Can't Hold Us Down." The album is not just about heart-break and battered family life, though. It's full of r&b and bluesy tunes that fill the air.

All in all, Aguilera's new album showcases her voice and her talent. The album is rightfully called *Stripped* because it is Christina baring her soul for the world to see. If you ever wanted to know the real Christina, it's in this album.

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Photos of the Issue



Tigger (Brian Arubugh), King George II (Joe Tossame), and Pooh (Rick Gilles) show their Hallowgreen spirit.

Photo by Adam Farcus



Freely the Firecracker's piercing seven strikes the children in the Early Childhood Center

Photo by David Ashby

Women's volleyball ends after rebuilding season

By Nathan Bauer



A pack of Lady Wolves keep the faith during a game.

Photo by Adam Farcus

The women's volleyball team ended its season after falling to Harper College in the Region IV tournament on Nov. 1.

The loss came after the team split four matches in the N4C Conference Championship held on Oct. 19 at the College of DuPage. They defeated Rock Valley College, 30-26 and 30-15, and then went on to defeat conference rival Triton College in two straight sets, 30-26 and 30-15. However, they were eliminated in matches against DuPage, 25-30 and 17-30, and Harper College, 25-30 and 17-30.

On Oct. 22 the Lady Wolves returned to action in their last home con-

test of the year. The Wolves fought hard but lost in a five-set thriller against Kankakee Community College, 30-23, 30-28, 12-30, 18-30 and 12-15. Then, the Lady Wolves played against Kishwaukee College on Oct. 24 and lost 30-12, 30-17 and 30-2 in a heartbreaking loss in Malta.

Despite the disappointing season, some team members were recognized by the North Central Community College Conference. Kristen Caputa, a sophomore outside hitter and team captain, was named to the N4C First-Team All-Conference Team. Candice Christain, Rachael Devereaux and Melissa Farlan were also awarded All-Conference Honors. Coaches from other N4C colleges chose the awards

The 'Mighty Nine' of women's soccer wrap up season

By Maricela Paramo

The JJC women's soccer team began their inaugural season as a team this fall. However, it was a real challenge because they had to play most of their games with only nine players.

Before ending their season, the Lady Wolves played six games in the month of October, including the round-off in the playoffs.

On Oct. 1, they lost against Rock Valley with a final score of 3-1. Ashley McFerrer made the goal for JJC and assisting her was Janna Underwood. Their following game was on October 8 against Harper College and they lost yet again, this time by a score of 9-1.

Once again McFerrer and Underwood demonstrated their hard work by performing and assisting during the goal.

Other games included losses against the College of Lake County and the College of DuPage. However, the Lady Wolves pulled through during their last match of the regular season against South Suburban College, winning the game with a close score of 3-2. Jennifer Courtney and Janna McFerrer scored the goals.

The women wrapped up their season on Oct. 22 at the round-off playoffs against South Suburban College, losing 2-0. Coach Dan Furlan comments that the women played better than he expected considering that half



The mighty nine pose for a team photo

Photo courtesy of JJC Athletic Department

of the girls on the team did not play varsity soccer in high school and the fact that the team consisted of only nine members who were playing against other community colleges with eleven players.

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Can you smell what the Wolves are cooking?



The Wolves play defense with an equal D in their Nov. 2 game.

By Adam Fox

With the season nearly over and the Wolves football team headed to Iowa for another bowl game, a smell can be sensed in the air. No it is not the smell from the cafeteria. It is fear, because the Wolves are tearing up and humiliating every opponent that thinks they have a chance to beat them.

The Wolves ran their record to 10-0 with their 29-15 win over Harper College on Nov. 2. They have extended their winning streak to 20 victories, including last season. This is the first time that the football team has won 10 games in the regular season. Since their Nov. 2 victory and their second consecutive North Central Community College Championship against Grand Rapids Community College on Oct. 26, the Wolves have been in a state of euphoria.

This season, the strength of the defense was by far their talented group

of linebackers. Ben Henderson, Joe Podschweit and Darnell Lay, the three linebackers, helped make the entire defense superior to others. However, with Darnell Phillips at Cornerback and Darryl Smith, Josh Crestman and A.J. Lindsay anchoring the Defensive Line, it is easy to say that this defense is one to be feared and respected.

But to say that this is a one-sided team is like saying that the world is flat. With Jim Peyton at the helm, the Wolves are an offensive powerhouse. "I've had great quarterbacks, I've had some go in the NFL. But he is definitely in the top ten. Jimmy's got a lot of skill, but he has not capitalized his ability yet," says Coach Bob MacDougall about his talented quarterback.

Unbeatens, maybe. But one thing is for sure, the Wolves are an awesome team and their upcoming Iowa opponent should fear them.

Men's soccer stopped in regionals, but looks forward to next season

By Matt Furlane

The men's soccer team ended their season with a tough 0-1 loss in their first regional game on Oct. 30, which pitted them against the 14th seeded College of Lake County Lancers at Joliet's Inwood Park. The loss was disappointing for the team but head coach Cristobal Trillo remains optimistic.

"We just could not get the ball in the net for some reason. But, overall, we had a very good season, and it is unfortunate that we lost this way. We should have advanced farther than the first round."

After playing 13 regular season games, the JJC men's soccer team finished with a winning record of 7-6-1 overall and 5-3 in the North Central Community College Conference. To cap off an already good season the team was seeded third in the 2002 National Junior College Athletics Association Region IV Championship.

"The league has seen that we have done very well against some good teams," said Trillo. "When the players go out on to the field, they always give 100 percent, and I have no complaint about how hard they try to win matches."

With the unexpected regional loss to the Lancers, Coach Trillo and the players are thinking about how to prepare for next season.

"We're looking forward to continue playing indoor soccer and even-



Dave Valdivia kicks free.

Photo by Adam Fox

tually come out and play stronger next year," said defensive player Marcos Paramo.

Midfielder Derek Beckham also remained positive. "As a team we did well. We have a lot of skilled players and we had a winning season. Next year, as a team we need to focus more and ultimately concentrate more on tactical and strategic plays of plays as far as defending as a team and attacking as a team."

Next season the Wolves will face many challenges including roster changes and field conditions. Also, several players will be transferring and they will have to recruit more players. Coach Trillo is looking ahead optimistically though.

"There's always work to do and there are things we can do better as coaches and things to work on with incoming players. I think playing one season definitely makes a difference. I think a lot more kids want to come here now."

A taste of Indiana helps fuel men's basketball

By Megan Gilman

Despite a tough schedule and a new staff, the men's basketball team brings in transfer students and a taste of Indiana to create another winning season. This season's schedule is framed around five regular season tournaments, including two hosted by JJC. The other three will take the team to Cincinnati State on Nov. 8, Kennedy King College on the weekend of Dec. 20-21 and Central Florida Community College on Jan. 3.

"The kids love playing in tournaments," said coach Joe Kuhn. "There is a little extra incentive to perform well." This is Kuhn's sixth season with the wolves.

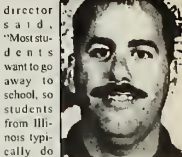
Along with five tournaments in the first half of the season, the Wolves have a new coach joining them. Ty Caldwellwood, new assistant coach, played basketball at JJC and the Uni-

versity of Wisconsin. He will be replacing Dave Dwyer, who left because of responsibilities at work.

With five returning sophomores and three transfer students, the Wolves intend to face their tough schedule head on. Gordon Morgan, all region player and first team all conference last year, will be leading the team as a guard this season. Eddie Small, who also returns from last year's team as the leading rebounder, will be playing forward.

Several transfer students will also bring experience to the team this season. Darrell Space comes from the College of DuPage, where he red shirted last year. Alexon Triplette and Oscar Maddox join the Wolves from Malcolm X College.

Another tactic the coaching staff has adopted is recruiting players from Indiana. In fact, ten of fourteen players this season come from the Hoosier state. Kyle Kreger, sports information



Men's basketball coach Joe Kuhn

Photo courtesy of JJC Athletics Department

been looking to Indiana for players. These players get the thrill of going away to school yet are still close enough to have their families come and watch them play."

With a change in staff, five returning sophomores, a slew of transfer students and a taste of Indiana, the men's basketball team seems to be headed for another winning season.

Lady Wolves look forward to a better season

Women's basketball looks to improve on last season's 2-28 record

By Megan Gilman

With three returning sophomores, a few transfer students and four heavily recruited freshmen, the Lady Wolves basketball team hopes to turn around their record of 2-28 from last season.

Returning to woman's basketball this year are Chris Calligaris, Annmarie Dell'Aquila, and Daniel Mumm. Calligaris, who has gained valuable experience from last season, led the team in point percentage and will be contributing to the team as a guard. Dell'Aquila, who led the Lady Wolves in rebounding and steals, will be attacking the position of forward. Mumm, who led the wolves in scoring and defensive rebounding, will be playing center.

Along with the returning sopho-



Lady Wolves basketball coaches Stephanie Sharp and Tony Greese

Photo courtesy of JJC Athletics Department

more, transfer students also add to the dynamics of the Lady Wolves. Jody Byers and Alison Wilder come to JJC from Glen Oaks Community College in Centerville, Mich. Candace Robinson transferred back to her hometown of Joliet from Blackhawk East Community College in Kewanee, Ill., where she won most improved player.

The Lady Wolves were also able to snag four heavily recruited freshmen, Kely Peru, Ladonna Washing-

ton, Molly Chase and Tatyana Evans. Pero, who was highly recruited by many NJCAA Division II colleges, will bring a great work ethic to her position as guard. Washington brings enthusiasm and quickness to her position of forward.

This season marks Tony Greese's second season as head coach. Greese played baseball for JJC in 1989 and went on to play for the Salukis of SIU-Carbondale in 1991 and 1992. He coached men's basketball and baseball for JCA.

"If we can come together as a team, I am confident we can go as far as we've planned," said Greese.

Stephanie Sharp also returns as assistant woman's basketball coach this season. She will assist in recruiting, scouting and schedule making for the Lady Wolves.

"We have a lot of hard working girls that play to win, and we are excited to start the season off," said Sharp.

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Voters shoot down \$251 million JJC referendum

Administrators and group leaders remain optimistic about the future of college

By David Ashby

The voters of community college district 525 were certainly not in a giving mood on Nov. 5. The referendum that would have given the college \$251 million to expand and improve its existing facilities failed to pass.

There were two questions concerning the referendum on the Nov. 5 ballot. The first was a proposition to issue JJC \$251 million in community college bonds. The other was a proposal to increase the operations and maintenance tax rate by two cents.

Regarding the community college bonds, about 45 percent voted in favor, while about 55 percent voted against it. As for the increase in the maintenance tax, about 31 percent voted in favor and about 69 percent voted against it. This was the first referendum that JJC has asked for in 25 years.

College administrators say that the biggest reason that the referendum did not go through was because of the current state of the economy and because of the large amount of other educational institutions in the district that were also asking for extra funds.

"This referendum did not pass,

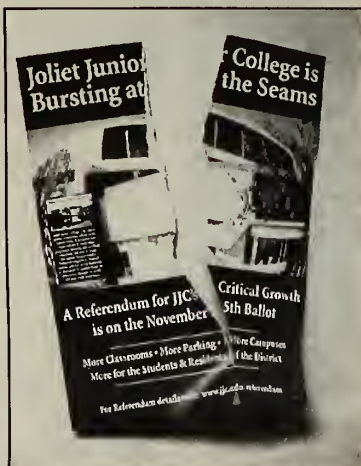
nor did any other school referendum within our district. So that tells me that for the most part the no votes were not so much a vote against JJC or the referendum, as it was against the tax hike at a time when people's property taxes seem to be increasing," said Roxane Geraci, Community Relations Director for JJC.

The Wilmington, Union, Laraway, Chaney-Monge and Ludwig Walsh school districts also had referendums on the ballot that did not pass.

According to JJC President J.D. Ross, even though JJC is quickly maxing out its space, classes and programs will not be cut from the budget. However, he does say that during registrations to come, it would be best for students to register for classes as early as possible to ensure that they get the classes that they need.

Also, he said that because of the limits on space, it might be more difficult for students to get a full course load of classes during a given semester.

Since the referendum was placed on the ballot in August, a combined effort of numerous groups and organizations pushed to educate the public about its importance. For example, the Alumni Association had a "phone blitz," in which retired staff and administrators called the JJC's alumni to encourage them to vote and support the referendum during three nights at the end of October.



Even this poster is "bursting at the seams" because the referendum did not pass.

Photo by Jessica Harvey

Another major contributor was the Citizens Advisory Committee. Almost every night from August to Nov. 4, the group of JJC alumni made numerous speeches and presentations to various civic organizations around the district, including rotary clubs, village boards and chamber of commerce.

Many JJC students also helped by encouraging people to support the referendum. In early October, JJC's student government offered the student body a chance to register to vote in the school. They also put on a concert on Oct. 30 in the cafeteria. Though the loss was disappointing, JJC's administration and the internal and external organizations seem optimistic about the future of the oldest community college in the nation.

"We were heartened by the 44 percent who did choose yes," said Dr. James Waldorf, co-chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Though JJC's Board of Trustees

has not decided yet if another referendum will appear on the April 2003 ballot, most administrators anticipate that it will.

According to Waldorf, the Citizens Referendum Committee and the Board of Trustees will work together on a post-election analysis of the referendum campaign.

They will send questions to various educational, civic and organizational leaders around the district so they can get input and data about what they feel were strong and weak points about the campaign.

Still, to many who worked in the campaign, the most rewarding experience was to see the large amount people who put in their time to help ensure that the school continues to be able to serve all prospective students in the district.

"I think it was gratifying to see how many people were willing to work for the college because they believe in it and they believe in what we do," said Ross.

2002 REFERENDA RESULTS*

YES

60,571

In favor of issuing
\$251,635,000 in
Community College
Bonds

Against issuing
\$251,635,000 in
Community College
Bonds

76,767

NO

* Votes from Cook, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, LaSalle, Livingston, and Will counties

Statistics courtesy of Community Relations Department

Fitness center revamps existing facilities for future JJC students

New workout room, new equipment among upgrades in center

By Craig Miller

So you're walking down the C-building hallway going towards the bridge, and you notice that there is a lot of stuff going on in the school fitness center. Or perhaps you are one of those lucky students who get to partake in the daily trip to the fitness center for your 27-minute workout. In either case, you may find yourself asking the same question: What has been going on with the fitness center?

Well it is of no surprise to those students who attend the fitness center regularly that the center was closed down for a week in early November. The reason for the minor setback was the first of several different projects that were, and will be, taking place in the fitness center.

The first of these projects took place in early November with the addition of new lighting to the current fitness center room. This project was the cause for the closure of the center to students for a week. It was re-opened on Nov. 7.

The second of these projects is currently taking place just to the east of the current fitness center where a whole new workout room is being

built. This new room will house 20 new pieces of equipment, and also make the hallway outside of the fitness center the new stretching area.

According to John Peterson, director of the fitness center, the new room should be completed by Dec. 5. The new equipment will then come in during several weeks after the completion.

Peterson stated that the cost for the renovation of the fitness center is estimated at around \$106,000, and the cost of the new equipment at about \$23,000.

Other plans for future expansion of the fitness center were put on hold because the JJC referendum, which would have given them extra money,



Although the fitness center is a colorful new area, it will be a sign for some eyes for months.

Photo by David Ashby

did not pass. Some of the ideas included expanding the fitness center out toward the lake, and adding additional classrooms.

Blazer View

Veterans deserve honor and recognition for their heroic deeds



This is just one of the things our veterans fought for.

It truly is sad that many people only consider Veteran's Day merely a day off from school and work. This is unfortunate because Veteran's Day is more than just day for us to sleep in. It is an important time to honor the brave men and women who so proudly sacrificed themselves to protect our country and its ideals.

If there were not men and women dedicated to stopping the evil regime of Adolf Hitler during WWII, our country would not exist. If there were not men and women dedicated to holding the Union together during the Civil War, our country would not exist. And if there were not men and women dedicated to stopping men like Osama bin Laden and terrorist cells like al-Qaida, we certainly would be in a heap of trouble today. It is obvious that the veterans of this country have certainly played a huge

part in our nation's history and that we would not be here if it were not for them.

It does not matter what war or conflict they fought in, whether it was WWI, WWII, the American Revolution, the Civil War, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf or Afghanistan, those who fought proudly deserve to be recognized for their amazing endeavors.

According to the Department of Veteran's Affairs website, the day of remembrance was originally created to commemorate the end of WWI and was called Armistice Day. But in 1947, it was changed to Veteran's Day.

Armed forces veterans are not the only soldiers who are honored on Nov. 11. 'Anybody who knitted socks for soldiers or grew food for those serving abroad also contributed to the defense of our ideals. They also deserve

a thank you.

The deeds of veterans influence more than just the outcome of a war. In many ways, they are a part of American culture. Though WWII ended almost five decades earlier, the movies *Saving Private Ryan* and *The Thin Red Line*, both released in 1998, and both nominated for the Best Picture Academy Awards, reminded the United States about the great sacrifices that the men of the armed forces made during WWII.

Generations of American children have looked often to the men of the armed forces. GI Joe action figures have been a favorite toy for young boys for decades, and dressing up like either soldiers or sailors is common among children during Halloween. So no matter if they like it or not, veterans are considered heroes by many people.

Despite the sacrifices that these men and women have made, many veterans have been forced to continue to fight, even after their service has ended. According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, 271,000 of our nation's finest are homeless. Also, according to the American Federation of Government Employees, VA facilities are facing a \$600 to \$800 million shortfall due to budget cuts.

The bottom line is that no war is easy to accept, and within every conflict between nations, there are always conflicts at home. So no matter what your views, ideals or political beliefs are, it is of utmost importance to take a moment and honor those who have sacrificed so much for our great country.

The good, the bad and the ugly: SUVs aren't all they're cracked up to be

By Matt Furlane

I've always liked the idea of driving a 4x4 through rough and dangerous terrain, like those photographers in National Geographic specials who drive it through jungle mud and deserts wasteland. But now that the sport utility vehicle (SUV) craze is in full swing, my desire to go off-roading has been ruined.

SUVs are not entirely horrible because they do offer some good. For people who live in parts of the world where mountains and poor road con-

ditions make driving hazardous, an SUV can be the perfect vehicle.

And for worried dads and moms who want to keep their children safe and high up off the ground in places where snow and rain can accumulate quickly, an SUV can provide a sense of security.

Additionally, because they are so heavy and durable, they require large amounts of raw material like rubber and steel to manufacture, which helps our economy grow and provide people with steady work.

But despite this, SUVs clearly can be bad. First, because everything is

bigger, when they breakdown the cost for parts and labor is probably five times as high that of a regular passenger vehicle with the same problem. Unless you're rich, it's an extra burden you can't afford.

Second, SUVs are gas hogs. The typical mileage per gallon for an SUV is around 10-15. This means that you're at the pump more often and wasting more and more money on gasoline.

Thirdly, almost no vehicle is more likely to rollover and cause death than an SUV. Many drive SUVs as if they were regular passenger cars, not understanding the physics of driving something that may weigh more than a dual wheeled pickup truck. SUVs can't make hairpin turns or stops on a dime! They are big, heavy utility vehicles.

On top of this the SUV (think sport utility vehicle) can be just plain unattractive. As symbols of our material era, they give off an aura and look

strangely similar to overstuffed 70s station wagons. For example, the Dodge Durango looks like a streamlined 4x4 hearse. It's a perfect funeral car for Alaska or Somalia. And the monster size Lincoln/Cadillac models seem to be embarrassingly obvious Freudian symbols. Why not just wave a banner?

Lastly, the advertisements always seem to portray SUV drivers as James Bond-like rebels going where no man has gone before. But few drivers actually take their SUVs off-road. They simply go from the garage to one parking lot after another. And I've personally witnessed SUV owners swerve into other lanes to avoid driving through water and then baby step over train tracks for fear of roughing up their vehicle. It's a Sport Utility Vehicle. Use it! Get it dirty! Bust the shocks!

Maybe I just have a bad case of SUV envy. After all I don't own one and my car is not a 4x4, although I could go for the Subaru Outback or the

fun Jeep Wrangler. But I'm not the only one being critical. Articles on the internet and in major newspapers have appeared continually pointing out the problems. There has been, I believe, a growing consensus over the past few years among non-SUV owners and people concerned with pollution. Overall, SUVs are impractical, dangerous, and not being used for what they were designed for.

The SUV trend doesn't look like it's going to end anytime soon. So for now I'll have to endure the current climate of shiny SUVs parked here in the parking lot and direct my attention elsewhere. By the way, I am willing to test drive anyone's SUV for no charge. I just want to get a feel for how it handles. I'll be right back.



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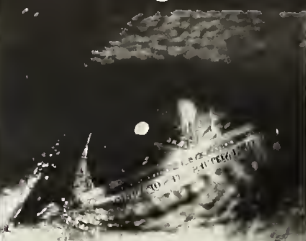
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Letter to the Editor

Reader reflects on Vietnam War veterans; Coordinator praises event coverage

Dear Editor:

It seems that there is much dissonance among us today regarding Bush's plan to invade Iraq. Never before was I more reminded of my childhood back in the 1960s. I was only 5-years-old when Lyndon Johnson decided to send ground troops into Vietnam. My brother Bob was drafted shortly after. I will never forget the fear we all felt upon hearing the news, and me, despite my age, knew that Bob was doing something very important and he could be taken from me forever.

When he shipped out, he wrote to us every chance he got and all of us waited with baited breath as my mother opened up the letter and read it aloud to all of us. He also shot hundreds of feet of super 8mm movies that he sent back to us, and we would all gather around the home-movie screen to see what his life was like.

I vividly remember my mother and older sister crying themselves to sleep every night, the nightly vigil by the television when the news was on and the readings of all the names every Sunday at mass of those who were killed in action. I also remember, like it was yesterday, one of our neighbors who came home with all four of his limbs blown off after stepping on a land mine, and another who was exposed to the poisonous Agent Orange. I remember seeing all that going on, and worrying about the day coming when Bob's name would be on the list of KIA's that was read by the priest every Sunday. I will never forget the sears we got when his letters came late, and I will never forget the huge celebration we had when Bob finally came home. Many of us cried tears of joy that day. Others were not so fortunate.

I also remember the protesters who called those men "baby killers"

and accused them of being immoral. I remember it took over 20 years before people finally recognized the sacrifices made by my brother and other men like him.

Now perhaps Vietnam was wrong. Perhaps any war is wrong, and believe it or not, I don't want to see us go to war with Iraq or anyone else. If Saddam Hussein had nuclear capabilities he would have used them by now. On the other hand, the possibility of Saddam Hussein getting those capabilities is truly frightening. To be honest, I lean towards being against the invasion, but I am not very clear where I stand on the issue of a war with Iraq.

I am VERY CLEAR on one issue, however. Whether you believe in the war or not, whether you believe it's necessary to invade Iraq or you

believe that Bush is spilling blood for oil, there is one profound truth that is clear for all to see. Those who went to Vietnam, those who went to Iraq in 1991, those who are in Afghanistan right now, and those who may go into Iraq in the future all have one thing in common. They do NOT fight for the President. They fight for the United States, the Constitution and for freedom. So hate the war as much as you may, but not the people who fought it.

Michael D. O'Brien
Media Services

program at JJC, I want to thank you for the excellent article written about National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week. The article was accurate and well written and really hit the highlights of the week. Megan did a wonderful job and attended each event to research the facts. This article was great coverage for a club that worked very hard on the week's activities. I have been very impressed with what the Blazer has done this year! Congratulations to all of you! Keep up the good work!

Pamela Dillard
Coordinator of Student
Activities/Holistic Wellness

To the Blazer Staff and Megan Gilman:

On behalf of Peers Promoting Wellness and the Holistic Wellness

Letter Policy

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters.

Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at H-1015B.

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News Briefs

Action for Freedom: There will be a general meeting on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 4:30 p.m. on the center of the bridge.

Black Student Union: There will be a general meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 27 at noon on the center of the bridge.

Campus Police: The Rape Aggressions Defense Systems will be holding a 12-hour course in self-defense tactics to prevent sexual assault next month. The class is open to women ages 16 and over. The class is offered on Dec. 5, 12 and 19 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. There is a one time fee of \$25 per person. Classes are limited to 10 people per class. For more information or to make reservations for a class call 280-2234 and ask for Officer Joe Sikora or CSA Jennifer Irigoyen.

Community Relations: Community Relations will present the Second Annual Winter Festival on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a campus-wide event that will feature ice sculptures, a craft show, gingerbread decorating, children's games and much more. Admission to this event is free.

Early Childhood Center: The Early Childhood Center will present a family fun night on Friday, Nov. 22, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Fine Arts Department: The Fine Arts Department will present an exhibit that features JJC area high school artists in the Laura A. Sprague Gallery from Nov. 18 through Nov. 27. The gallery is open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Interior Design Club: The Interior Design Club will host a bake sale on Thursday, Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the bridge.

Latinos Unidos: Latinos Unidos will hold a cultural dance on Friday, Nov. 22, from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. in the cafeteria.

Metalsmithing Class: The JJC Metalsmithing class will hold a handcrafted holiday jewelry sale on Thursday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Multicultural Transfer Center: There was a Transfer Center Lunch and Learn with Governors State University on Thursday, Nov. 7, from 11 a.m. to noon in room J-0006. The universities discussed topics such as financial aid, scholarships and answered students' questions. For further information on future Lunch and Leams, contact Angie Kayser-Lurbetok at 280-2449.

Office of Student Activities: OSA will present Monday Melodies on Monday, Nov. 25, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.

The Office of Student Activities: will also have a Leadership Series on Tuesday, Nov. 26, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. It is entitled "Civility & Respect" and will be held on the bridge.

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Local band 3 Foot 10 rocks out at Tastes, Words and Sounds on Nov. 6

Photo by Adam Farcus

Tastes, Words and Sounds

Poets, writers and singers divulge their talents at JJC cultural event

By Sandy Redmond

The ambience was created from tables that were lit by candlelight. Filtering from the stage was a lone voice that motions the crowd to "join in whenever you feel like it."

This was the essence that came from Tastes, Words, Sounds, a new conceptualized event happening right here at JJC featuring musical artists and poetry writers who divulge their talents and bare their souls. On Nov. 6 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., students met at the middle bridge to share in this auspicious event. The featured artist for the evening was Stolie, who came on to do two sets and wowed the gathered audience with her make-yourself-feel-right-at-home, good-na-

tured melodies.

Stolie, 24, began writing songs in high school and has been performing for the last seven years. She has traveled as far as the east coast to perform. Her style, though eclectic, was unmistakable even while performing cover songs from the likes of Eminem and Weezer. Throughout her performance, her own uniqueness came through.

Stolie has created and now runs her own record label "Screaming Galaxy Records," a company she's headed since December 2000.

"I wanted to feel like what I was doing was more professional (than before)," she said.

Although she is an outstanding songwriter, she does not want to sell her music to the next flavor-of-the-month boy or girl band. She prefers to keep her music close to the hearts of her fans.

"My songs aren't written to make someone famous; they are written for me to get something out, to convey emotion," she said.

After Stolie's set, a slew of multitalented poets and performers took to the stage during an open mike session and proceeded to show the students of JJC their version of raw, unbridled talent.

Performer James Williams thought the event was "pretty good." He also said that "Stolie was pretty good."

In this JJC performance, Stolie's unique, vocal range was heard, and emotions were felt and various "Tastes, Words, and Sounds" were discovered.



Talented singer Stolie captures the audience with her music

Photo by Adam Farcus

Centennial Commons residents work to become closer with JJC community

By Megan Gilman

A meeting between the office of student activities and Centennial Commons was held to address issues such as having off-duty Joliet police officers patrol the apartments, as well as helping the residents get more involved with school activities.

The meeting was held on Nov. 7 to discuss what the office of student activities can do to improve things at Centennial Commons. Anissa Jones, director of student activities, believes the students living in apartments feel separated from the rest of the school

and that more activities are needed to get the residents more involved with the rest of the student body.

"Students who get involved in activities do better in school and their surroundings," said Jones.

The first thing the student alliance wants to do is make sure the students in Centennial Commons have everything a student at the main campus has access to, including newspapers and magazines.

The student alliance would like to have the colleehouses that previously took place on the bridge at the recently completed clubhouse. The clubhouse also holds a pool table, so

they would like to set up pool tournaments. Currently, Monday Night Football is watched there, with a good turnout.

The OSA would also like to see a resident adviser or a resident of Centennial Commons become a part of the alliance or programming board, so the office would know what the students want. Giving residents of the apartments the opportunity to lead programs at the complex is important to the OSA.

"Making activities more accessible to the residents of centennial commons is one of our biggest priorities," said Jones.

DR. BILL'S COMPUTER CORNER

I would like to begin by saying that I was surprised by the amount of feedback that I received. Thank you to all that responded and I encourage all who did not write and have a computer question to write me, even if you may think that it is not worthy enough for a valid response. A computer that works will help you out later down the road.

Secondly, the most frequently asked question that I received is on space and memory on a computer. I find that most people are using their machines more and more and that new programs are installed on them daily.

I also find that most people are spending more time getting coffee and doughnuts rather than zipping along to the next website or program on a machine. So, to briefly describe common mistakes and corrections, please read on.

Some common steps to follow when cleaning a machine include cleaning off some programs, erasing some running programs on startup and preventative maintenance. I would recommend that once a month you do an evaluation of what programs you are using. Some of the programs you may not need anymore and are taking up space or using memory on the system cache, thus making your system run slow.

When you install a program on your machine, the icon usually appears on the desktop, right? Well, the program usually ends up in other places as well. These programs run constantly and take up a lot of memory on the machine. These running programs (icons) can be found by the clock in the lower right hand corner of the screen.

The programs can usually be

closed and removed easily. To close the program, you would just right click on the program you would like to close and it will give you an option to close.

For the more advanced user, there is another way to rid of the program from running on startup for good. Here's how: you would go to the start button, then click run, then type "msconfig." On the tabs move all the way to the right and you will see startup. These checked boxes are programs that start up when the machine boots up. When you remove these, your machine will run a little faster.

Of course, you cannot forget that the common scan disk and disk defragmenter are available for you to use.

The advice presented here is Bill's alone. It is not meant as advice from the Blazer staff. E-mail Bill Blyerley at news@pogredix.com

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Hypnotized students dance like they've never danced before!

Photo by David Ashby

Hypnotist leaves JJC in stitches

Frederick Winter shows JJC the power of hypnosis

By David Ashby

Sixteen JJC students had no idea what was going to happen as they put themselves in the hands of veteran hypnotist, Frederick Winters. After they were coached out of their regular consciousness, the students demonstrated the intense powers of hypnosis to a large crowd of about 175 people on the bridge.

Winters made two students believe that they were kangaroos, he made one think she had become addicted to cigarettes and he made another think she was Roadrunner from the Warner Brothers cartoon, and advised her to run frantically around the bridge yelling "beep beep."

These were some of the strange antics that went on during the Nov. 6 presentation of "Laugh Your Stress Away." The show was presented by Peers Promoting Wellness and was funded by a Pepsi grant to kick off stress relief month. Winters, the speaker at this show, hypnotized 16 students to give the student body at JJC a great laugh, as well as to demonstrate the powers of hypnosis.

Winters, a graduate of Northwestern University, is one of the busiest hypnotists in the country. He has performed 2,000 shows, entertained 500,000 people and hypnotized 100,000 people. He has been nominated about 10 times by various college associations as being one of the best campus acts in the United States.

According to Winters, hypnosis is not some mysterious black art used to possess innocent people. Instead, he claims that hypnosis can be used as a form of psychology that could help

people relax and focus more clearly, as well as conquer their fears or help them quit a dangerous habit, like smoking or overeating.

"It's like meditation," he says. "If people could learn how to relax, they could deal with their problems more intellectually."

The students who were hypnotized kept a good sense of humor throughout the show. However, some could not remember what happened to them after Winters took them out of their trance.

"I felt normal afterwards," said Dylan Peterson, one of the students hypnotized. "But then I took a nap and when I woke up I felt embarrassed."

Another student who was hypnotized was Don Terry, who said, "I don't remember anything. Everything is kind of fuzzy."

Winters said that most of the time, people who are hypnotized do not remember anything about their experiences while in the trance. He estimates that around 50-70 percent forget everything that happened during the hypnosis.

"The whole point was to laugh and to have a good time," said Pam Dilday, adviser for Peers Promoting Wellness. She also said that she would like to have Winters back again for another show next year.

Another show that was sponsored by Peers Promoting Wellness for stress relief month was "Who's on First," presented by Balance Quest. Former JJC graduate Kristin Papp spoke at the presentation about the importance of balancing one's personal problems with the problems of others. In her opinion, the best way to help others is to first help yourself.

Walking, reading, listening to music and taking baths were some of the methods that were discussed.

QUESTION OF THE ISSUE:

What was your most embarrassing moment?



Justin Daun

"I was on a ghost tour of Chicago and I went to go to the bathroom on the bus, but I got locked there in the dark. When I figured out how to open the door, everyone was laughing at me."



Jon Stiech

"This moment now."



Stacy Hulcy

"My friends always make fun of me because they know I ran over a chicken on my way to school on my birthday."



Catt Gripars

"My shirt came undone in second grade and everyone saw."



Josue Cordova

"I had a big breakfast before I went deep sea fishing for the first time. The waters were rough and the breaks on my wheelchair didn't work, so I was sliding all over the place. By lunchtime, I saw my breakfast all over again."



Lamar Murphy

"The first year I attended JJC, I got stuck in the snow in my wheelchair, and the grounds workers had to help me."

Photos and copy by Jessica Harvey

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JJC Agriculture Students Association rounds up awards

Students earn three top team and 18 individual awards at state agricultural competition

By Justin Johnson

The JJC Agriculture Student Association is building a winning tradition. In the state competition last February, which was the club's first year as participants and members of the Post Secondary Agriculture Student Organization (PAS), the 13 members of the club were able to attain three top team awards and five top individual awards.

At the recent state competition held on Nov. 7 at Spoon River College, the team was able to improve on its previous mark. Twenty-three students were able to earn five top-three team awards, and 18 top individual awards.

The PAS state competition is designed to challenge the students' knowledge about the industry of agriculture. The skills and knowledge that a student can gain from these competitions can be an invaluable asset later on in their careers.

"Not only does participating in these activities look good on a student's applications and resumes, but they are also developing good leadership and speaking skills," said Tammy Miller, adviser for PAS and the Student Agriculture Club.

In the employment interview con-

test, students create resumes and go through the interview process. Third place finishers in this section were Jeff Landers, for crop production; Shana Collier, for dairy production; and Sarah Schwark, for food and animal health. Second place finishers included Patrick Pfingsten, for agricultural business sales; and Mike Szydio, for fertilizers and agricultural chemicals.

Among the first place finishers were Marc Bauer, for agricultural equipment service; Jared Finegan, for agricultural business administration; Johnnie Van Riper, for livestock production; and Vicki Heath, for forestry.

The livestock specialist competition consisted of a multiple choice test on general knowledge, a 20-minute oral report on a current issue regarding their specific area and a 20-minute problem solving issue.

In the overall division, an individual first place finish by Joe Blackford, as well as individual second place finishes by Brian Simpkins and Aaron Orebaugh, helped earn the team first place overall.

In the sheep division an individual third place finish by Brad Beutke as well as the efforts of Amanda Schertz and Chris Nelson helped earn the team third place overall.

In the swine division, an individual third place finish from Jeff Landers, an individual second place finish from Mike Roach, and the efforts of Amanda Landeen and Angie Midnight helped earn the team's second place overall.



Members of JJC's Illinois Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization proudly display their awards

Photo courtesy of the agriculture department

and place overall.

In the beef division, the team of Jacob Chapman, Jesse Faber, Sarah Schwark and Curtis Bryant earned second place overall.

The crops specialist was held in the same fashion as the livestock. With Clint Vaughn's individual sec-

ond place, Shana Collier's individual tenth place, Marc Bauer's individual ninth place and the efforts of Mike Szydio, Dave Bols and Jared Finegan, the team earned an overall third place finish.

By placing in the top three, either individually or as a team, stu-

dents earn the right to go to nationals, which will be held this March, in Indianapolis, Ind.

All JJC students with at least one agriculture class are able to join the Student Agriculture Association.

For more information contact Tammy Miller at 280-2424.

Democrats take control in Illinois

Blagojevich, Madigan among the winners in Nov. 5 election

By Maricela Paramo

As a lot of you may already know Nov. 5 was election day. During the month of October candidates running for office campaigned big since it was getting close to election time.

On Wednesday Nov. 6, the results were in. Beginning with Joliet, the proposed referendums for JJC did not pass. The referendums included a two-cent increase in the existing tax rate to support new building renovations that would increase classroom space. If the referendums had passed, it would have increased the taxes on a \$100,000 home by about \$40 per year.

There were two questions on the ballot, one asking for \$251 million in bonds and the other asking for an increase in operations and maintenance tax. Forty-five percent were in favor for the bond, while 55 percent were against it. As for the tax increase, 31 percent said yes while 69 percent said no.

In Illinois, Democrat Rod Blagojevich won the election for the state governor with 53 percent of the votes against Republican Jim Ryan. Once Blagojevich takes office he will face the issues of tax hikes and the death penalty. Governor George Ryan plans to keep his negative views of the death penalty in place until his term ends.

Also in Illinois, Lisa Madigan became the first woman attorney gen-

eral since 1960. Madigan had 51 percent of the votes and her opponent Joseph Birkett had 46 percent of the votes.

In most elections, controversies are stirred when candidates attack each other through ad campaigns, and of course, this year was not an exception.

Madigan ran a full-page newspaper ad linking Birkett to the Maryland sniper shootings. Chicago Sun-Times quoted Birkett indirectly on his response to Madigan's attack as "a new low in Illinois politics." Madigan believes Birkett contributed to the sniper shooting through his acceptance of contribution of \$1.35 million dollars from the National Rifle Association for his campaign.

Other winners were Democrat Dick Durbin who was returned to the U.S. Senate with 61 percent of the votes. His opponent was Jim Durkin who had 38 percent of the votes. Judy Barr Topinka was elected as state's treasurer. She had 52 percent of the votes against Tom Dart, who lost this race with 46 percent of the votes.

For the State of Illinois, the Democrats obtained control of the State Senate, the State House and five other constitutional offices.

Nationally, the Republicans were still able to capture the majority of the seats in the U.S. Senate. President Bush's last minute campaigning paid off and also helped his brother Jeb Bush, who also was re-elected as governor of Florida.

Bush says Republicans will vote to make his tax cuts permanent and confirm conservative judges.

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Kelly Gilbreth recites poetry at the Native American Club Coffeehouse

Photos by Adam Farces

Music, poetry and storytelling highlight Native American coffee house

By Jessica Harvey

The loud drums resonated through the halls of JJC when the Native American Club's Annual Coffeehouse was held on Wednesday, Nov. 13. It was a night of Native American music, storytelling and poetry.

Oncida, North Cheyenne, Ojibway, and White Earth Ojibway were the four tribes that the performers represented.

The evening started with a flag song dedicated to all veterans. The strong and powerful voices of Larry Lockwood, R.J. Smith and Mark Stevens could be heard throughout the school. They sang in the high-pitched, traditional Northern style that derives from the Northern Plains.

Lockwood explained that it was important to the Native American people to sing honor songs. They slowed the songs down out of respect for the elders, so they could still dance with their tribe.

After the flag song, the charismatic Lockwood began his storytelling. He told stories of the importance of taking care of Mother Earth and earning for our fellow creatures.

Mark La Riqui followed with his own unique brand of storytelling. La Riqui read two selections. He started with a poem that his friend wrote about the journey of life and finished with the reading of a short story of his own.

The poetry readings continued when the witty Kelly Gilbreth took the stage. She shared her own personal poems about self-discovery, nature and wanting.

When Gilbreth finished, Smith took the time to explain how the drum is an instrumental part of the Native American culture. The drum represents the heartbeat, and he said that playing the drum is the closest way a man has to experience the creation of life.

He also informed the audience that the drum is circular, so everyone can be seen, and there are no corners to cut people off. The drum is used to bring people closer together.

A long time ago these drums were passed along from tribe to tribe as a way of promoting brotherhood between people," said Smith.

The drummers finished their set with another honor song, which was sung in the low and loud Northern style that derives from the Northern Plains. After the group drumming, Lockwood took the stage to end the evening with a song dedicated to his daughters.

"Life goes on and we all follow our paths," said Lockwood.

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Eminem and Harry Potter score big at the box office and with our critics



8 Mile

By Tiffani Shipp

This past weekend, rap superstar Eminem made his big screen debut in the critically acclaimed *8 Mile*. The movie is a semi-autobiographical account of a young man growing up in Detroit, trying to find his purpose and his identity in the world. Who better than to play this part than Marshall Mathers? Because he was raised in the same way as the character in the movie, he let's the viewers take a complete look into his world before he became Eminem.

Many people were expecting more from this movie due to the fact that it is so closely based on the rapper's life. I went to this movie with an open mind and was greatly satisfied with the film and its outcome. It is reported this movie made \$54 mil-



Brittany Murphy and Eminem from a scene in *8 Mile*.

lion in its first weekend alone, making it the second biggest opening weekend for an R rated film (2001's *Hannibal* is number one). That's big, and if that was not big enough, the *8 Mile* soundtrack is also holding its own at the number one spot on the billboard charts.

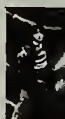
I do have to say that being an Eminem fan makes me a little biased, but I do have a couple of things that I didn't like about the film. I thought that the plot and some of the

character's relationships could have been more developed. However, after seeing it a couple of times I noticed that it didn't bother me anymore.

I did enjoy the fact that all the characters did not want the same things out of life. All too often you find movies where the main characters and their friends are always on the same page. But in *8 Mile*, Jimmy (Eminem) and his friends do not want the same things out of life. They have different opinions about where they see themselves.

Eminem shows sides of himself that many of his fans have never seen before, especially in the scenes where he interacts with his little sister. In the film it is not expressed, but you can tell that his sister's safety and love is important to him. Also, if rap fails him (which I highly doubt), he can certainly make a career as an actor because his performance in this film is so natural.

All in all, *8 Mile* had some heart-warming parts and some funny parts, as well as an extraordinary performance from Eminem. I thought this was a great movie, and I've seen it four times.



Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

By Matt Sheehan

found most entertaining was Kenneth Branagh as Hogwarts' new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, Gilderoy Lockhart, a wizard who is so full of himself, yet charming enough to make the girls sigh and the guys groan.

I was surprised that the film did not contain any remembrance or tribute to the late, great Richard Harris, who flawlessly played Hogwarts' Headmaster Professor Albus Dumbledore. For someone who wouldn't do the role until his granddaughter told him to, I am, in fact, very shocked that director Chris Columbus did not even put a dedication for Harris at the beginning of the film. Hey, there's always the DVD, Chris. Nevertheless, Harris will be missed but most certainly not replaced.

To sum up, I did not have as much fun watching *The Chamber of Secrets* as I did *The Sorcerer's Stone*, but it was still immensely entertaining. Moreover, it is certainly worth a peak

at the film. Special effects are shown at their best here, seamlessly woven into the film as if they were filmed on actual sets. Perhaps the aspect that I



Harry Potter - child swordsmen

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Gemini- Eat the puddin'.



Cancer- John Travolta will visit you in a dream every Thursday for six weeks.



Leo- You will live in a yellow submarine, a yellow submarine, a yellow submarine.



Virgo- Cell phones, computers, genetics: you will be the end of these.



Libra- Go and rent a teletubies episode because it leads all to the true path of enlightenment.



Scorpio- This may sound redundant, but you must really love that lamp.



Sagittarius- Wake up, you've been napping for 20 years.



Capricorn- Lucky you!



Aquarius- Your brother, Bert, is 53 today.



Pisces- This was rushed, so good luck.

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'Everyman' challenges theater audience

By Matt Furlane

Normally people go to the theatre to be entertained and to forget about the bigger issues of life for a little bit. But the JJC Fine Arts Department has reached higher by challenging its audience this semester with the *Laramie Project* and most recently with the 15th century play *Everyman*, a one-act production that ran from Nov. 7-11.

Originally a medieval morality play anonymously written by either a Catholic priest or a monk, it was frequently produced in the 1500s and used allegory to instruct its viewers about morals.

The lead character is "Everyman," played well by Derrick Trumbly, who represents all of mankind as he is called by God and death to reform his life before it ends. During his journey, he has to confront his own sins and discover if he can rely on friends, family or wealth, which are portrayed by various character types, to join him and help him make it to the end.

The original production of the play is considered by some to be decay, so adjustments were made in order to bring it to the stage and keep people interested. To make the play contemporary without changing the focus or the script, Zach Bloomfield, director and associate professor of speech and theatre, made the characters more identifiable to a present-day audience.

For example, "Fellowship," played humorously by Geoff Amadi, is dressed like a rabid sports fan overly attached to his beer. "Strength," played by Steve Elmore, was costumed in shoulder pads with a blue Superman T-shirt and introduced with the Fox/32 football soundtrack. "Good Deeds," played by Jenna Stworzyjanek, was portrayed like a regular college student and was placed directly in the audience until coming out when called by "Everyman."

But despite its modern flavor and moments of humor, the core of the play and its language remained unchanged.

"What I wanted to do is for the actors and for the audience to have the challenge of really grappling with that language and finding meaning within it," said Bloomfield. "If you keep the language the same, regardless of how much we have changed over 500 years, you can still see what it's saying about us. I think it really gives a sense of who we are in the entire historical continuum."

Another contemporary element was the incorporation of many views and different religions into the staging of the play. "Everyman" is Catholic in its language and theology, but Bloomfield introduces visual and character elements in order to convey a broader message about society's conceptions of God. Hanging from the ceiling were symbols of the major world religions, including the Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist faiths.

The only reference to the Catholic church is a moment when "Knowledge," played by Elizabeth Breen in graduation garb, advises the audience, with a Chicago Tribune headline in hand, to not be turned away from the truth because of scandalous priests.

God is portrayed as both male, played by Dan Vergo, and female, played by Leah Dettling. "Confession," played by Leah Giovannelli, wore the orange robe of a Buddhist monk.

"Although this production makes no attempt to teach the moral lesson of a specific religion, I believe *Everyman* asks questions vital to all of us regardless of our cultural or religious background: 'What is most important in my life?' 'Who will stand by me?' 'Where am I going?'" said Bloomfield.

"Unlike its original medieval English, middle-class Christian audience, today's audiences are multicultural, and represent numerous religions and concepts of spirituality," added Bloomfield.

As the audience follows *Everyman* through his journey, there were many moments to identify with and opportunities to at least consider ideas outside the realm of contemporary life. And given the heightened sensitivity to sudden death and religious differences in a post 9/11 America, *Everyman* still seemed very timely and important for today's audience.

Video game review: *Lord of the Rings* game, *The Two Towers* is 'two' fun



The Lord of the Rings

The Two Towers

9/10
By Damon Wrona

Rarely do movie to videogame transitions ever turn out to be much fun. Video game companies often try too hard to stay true to the movie or instead they just rush out a poor game with a good license to make a quick buck. Thankfully, EA Games didn't blow an opportunity to create a great game with such a great license. Instead, they used it to its advantage.

Although the game is titled *Two Towers*, the sequel to *The Fellowship of the Ring* in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, it does feature the last few scenes of *The Fellowship* to begin the game. It then takes you through various battles you will be seeing in December when *Two Towers* hits theaters.

At its heart, *Two Towers* is basically a hack-and-slash action game with characters from Middle-Earth. But it's a really good hack and slash game. The game allows you to upgrade your character by spending experience points. This really makes the game fun because it allows you to learn new moves, combos and one-hit kills. This keeps the game fresh where most games in this genre fade fast because of repetitive game play.

The graphics in *Two Towers* are great. The backgrounds look fantastic and the character models look absolutely fantastic. The sound is also great. Howard Shore's epic soundtrack from the movie is always thumping. Make sure to turn the volume up loud.

The coolest thing that really sets this game apart from other movie games is that the movie's actors do all the voice acting. That's right, all the real voices accompany the game's characters. EA Games really pulled out all the stops with this title and it shows.



A scene from *The Two Towers*.

This game is also filled with DVD style extras. In fact, never have I seen so many extras put into a videogame. You can watch movies, interviews, hidden levels and secret characters. There's lots of replay value packed into this game.

If you enjoyed *Lord of the Rings*, or just like playing a great action game, I highly recommend this title. It really puts you into the movie with great graphics, terrific sound and real voices. Pick this one up.

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Both Timberlake and Sigur Rós are 'justified'

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Sigur Rós

"O"

**** 1/2

By Adam Farcus

A group of 20-somethings have stormed the United States and have left an impressionable mark on its rock underground.

Nat many people have heard of Sigur Rós. They don't have any songs on the radio or on MTV. The only actual commercial play they have received in the states was a performance that was cut short on Late Night with Conan O'Brien.

Sigur Rós is a foursome from Iceland. Jón is the lead singer and guitarist, Georg plays bass, Orri is on the drums and Kjetan masters the piano, keyboard, guitar and flute. Their name directly translates into "Victory Rose," and is also the name of Jón's sister, Sigurðs.

This CD, "O," is Sigur Rós's second U.S. release, after 2000's Ágætis

Byrjun. Normally very slow and soft with ambient landscapes and slowly climatic sounds, "O" is no major deviation from the normal. They accomplish these beautiful sounds with the usual guitars and drums, but also with more untraditional instruments like a full string quartet, pianos, organs and creative uses of guitar like playing the lead with a cello bow and playing the bass with a drum stick.

Some people may recognize track #4, as it was used in the climax of Cameron Crowe's film, *Vanilla Sky*.

Sigur Rós purposely left off all titles and sung in "Hoplandie" (which is Jón making up his own language and using his voice as another instrument) to leave all creative interpretation to the listener.



Justin

Timberlake

Justified

By Tiffani Shipp

Say what you will about *Nsync front man Justin Timberlake, but there

is no denying that his new solo CD, *Justified*, is hot. According to the Billboard charts he's doing pretty good holding onto the number two spot, beating out Christina Aguilera's album *Stripped*.

Justified brings to the table a fresh-sounding Justin like you've never heard before. The first single did well holding the number one spot on TRL for quite sometime. The singer hopes to have the same success with his next single *Cry Me a River*. This song is hot to death, produced by Timbaland, the song is edgy with a great hidden meaning. If you're a fan you know exactly what the song implies.

For those of you who prefer Justin singing ballads, he has a couple, including the song produced by Brian McKnight called *Never Again*. The song is a tale of love, disaster and heartbreak. There is no need to worry because there are more than enough songs to get you in a better mood, like the song (*Oh No*) *What You Got*. This song puts you in a better mood just with its infectious beat and Middle-Eastern flare.

Timberlake put together an excellent team of producers to put his solo project over the top, including Timbaland, the Neptunes and Brian McKnight. He also worked with pop icon Janet Jackson and Bubba Sparox. Bottom line: I can't take this CD out of my stereo.

Look for more CD reviews in the next issue of the *Blazer*!

Photos of the Issue



Blazer girls Jessica Harvey and Chrissy Kosal rock out with Pierre Pulacinos Wednesday, Nov. 13 while making their own Snigles video.

Photo by Adam Farcus



A hypnotized student rubs the head of a 'thame'.

Photo by Jessica Harvey

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JJC Lady Wolves begin season 2-2

Women's basketball team shows determination

By Megan Gilman

The Lady Wolves basketball team has started the year with a 2-2 record. In their first four games, they have proven that they what it takes to compete.

In their most recent game on Nov. 16, the Wolves fell to Wright College, 79-59. They were led by Candace Robinson, who had 17 points and 13 rebounds in the loss.

The season opened Nov. 5 against Morton College. Due to a 21-4 run in the first half by the Wolves,

they won 63-26. Leading the Wolves was Alison Wilder, who scored 11 points and Kelly Pero, who scored 10 points. Danielle Mumm and Chris Calligaris also contributed to the victory by scoring a combined 17 points.

Four days later on Nov. 9, the Lady Wolves met the Moraine Valley Cyclones in Palos Hills. JJC defeated Moraine 61-54 in overtime. JJC gave Pero led the wolves with 25 points, five assists and four steals. Jody Byers scored 14 points and had two assists and five rebounds.

Also playing well for the Wolves was Wilder and Mumm. Wilder had 11 rebounds, while Mumm scored seven points and had eight rebounds. After their first two games, the Lady

Wolves were well on their way to a better year than last season's dismal 2-28 season.

Then the Lady Wolves met the Cavaliers of Kankakee Community College. Although they played a great game, they were outmatched by Kankakee, which is number two in the region and fell 95-41. Kankakee was quicker, able to get more shots off and had a better defense.

"This is a classic example of a team that is overmatched. Most of the girls from Kankakee have been training to play basketball all their lives," said Head Coach Tony Giese.

The only thing that hindered the Cavaliers were their aggressiveness.

They had almost twice as many fouls than the Wolves. During the first half they scored 23 points, which was no match for Kankakee's 54 points.

The Wolves came out in the second half looking tired and frustrated, but as soon as the game started they seemed rejuvenated. Pero led the team with 11 points, four rebounds and four assists. Also leading the Wolves were Annmarie Dell'Aquila and Tatyana Evans, each scoring five points. Dell'Aquila also had four rebounds, while Evans had two rebounds.

"We played our best out there. We have the best point guard in the league and we are ready to go and are excited about the rest of the season," said Giese.

Kuhn records 100th win as Wolves take tournament

By Adam Fox

Men's basketball head coach Joe Kuhn recorded his 100th and 101st wins as the Wolves won the JJC McDonalds Classic Tournament that they hosted on Nov. 15 and 16.

The Wolves topped St. Xavier JV, 87-81, on Friday to advance to Saturday's championship game against Diviet Nazarene. The Wolves were led on Friday by Oscar Maddox, who scored 25 points, and Eddie Small, who scored 12.

In Saturday's championship game, which the Wolves won 106-60, they were led again by Small, who had 18 points and 13 rebounds, and Earl Hughes, who scored 12 points. With this game, the Wolves' record now stands at 4-1.

The Wolves opened their season with a 73-70 win over Morton College on Nov. 5 at JJC. David Gullet and Gordon Morgan led the way for the team. Morgan scored 25 points and Gullet scored nine. With his defensive pressure, Gullet caused a 10-4 run for the Wolves.

With a game-one victory over Morton College, the Wolves had high confidence going into the Cincinnati State Tournament on Nov. 8 and 9, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The tournament was closer than the scores indicated. The Wolves humiliated Clermont College by a score of 102-66, earning their right to play in the championship game against Cincinnati State.

Although the Wolves tried to keep up, an 11-1 run by Cincinnati State in the first four minutes of the second half was too much for JJC in the title game. The Wolves lost by a score of 86-71, finishing second in the tournament.

As unstoppable as the combination of Brandon Bender and P.J. Sanders of Cincinnati State were, combining 46 points, the Wolves had its own duo, the amazing pair of Troy Shanks and Chris Wesby. Both were all-tournament selections and were responsible for 34 of the team's points in the championship game. Wesby contributed seven rebounds.



The Wolves take it to the hoop on Nov. 15 against St. Xavier JV's.

Photo by Adam Fox



Lady Wolf Kelly Hackl uses her offensive skills in a game against the Kankakee Cavaliers.

Photo by Adam Fox

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE



Kristen Capista

Kristen Capista, a 5'9 sophomore volleyball player, had a great season this year. She made first team all-conference, the all-region team, and the all-regional tournament team. Capista, a Joliet Township High School graduate, played outside hitter and right setter for the lady wolves and was named team captain. She ended the season with sixteen kills,

11 digs, and 2 blocks against William Rainey Harper College. The Blazer would like to congratulate Kristen and the volleyball team on a great season.



Kelvin Hayden

Kelvin Hayden, a 5'11 sophomore, led the football team to another bowl game this season. He made the first team all-conference, the all-region team, and was named Region IV offensive player of the year. This 153lb., SE, leads the National Junior College Athletics Association in receiving with 66 receptions for 1,176 yards. Hayden also ran for 12 touchdowns this season, and is JJC's all time single season receiving leader. He plans to attend University of Illinois next year. The Blazer congratulates Kelvin and the football team on a winning season.

Big changes ahead for the Bears

With dismal season winding down, Bears fans look to the future

By Adam Fox

Since the first half of the National Football League 2002-2003 season is over, I feel it is time to evaluate our beloved Chicago Bears.

Coming into this season, the Bears had high hopes, and even higher dreams. Players, coaches and even members of the media were casually dropping the words "playoffs" and even "Super Bowl" into their vocabularies. Rightly so, since their scored a miraculous 13-3 record and a trip to the playoffs last season. However, even Cinderella's glass slipper breaks occasionally.

So is it time to implode the team and start from scratch? Let's take a look.

The Offense: In the off-season, the Bears signed aging and injury-prone quarterback Chris Chandler to back up injury-riddled starter Jim Miller. Neither quarterback can last a whole NFL season, so when one goes down, the other can step in, just like a quarterback carousel. But the thought must have never crossed General Manager Jerry Angelo that both could be injured at the same time. DUH!

So what should he do for next season, considering this one is in the toi-

let? They have the choices of either drafting, signing a free agent or trading.

The Bears have one of the top picks for next year, again and have a shot at the top two quarterbacks. After the Cincinnati Bengals' pick their next quarterback, they probably have the choice of Marshall's Bryon Leftwich and USC's Carson Palmer. Every scout is drooling over these two college players. They are big, mobile, athletic quarterbacks in the mode of Donovan McNabb.

Or the Bears can have their pick of a weak free-agent pool which highlights Tampa Bay's Shaun King, a former Atlanta pro, or they can go the route of a trade and put together a package for St. Louis Rams backup Marc Bulger. Bulger, who succeeded as a starter after Kurt Warner was injured, looks pretty good.

The Defense: Where should I start on a unit that was the team's strength a year ago, and is now riddled with injuries? With all the starters except outside linebacker Roosevelt Colvin signed through next year, should the Bears implode and rebuild around star middle linebacker Brian Urlacher? No, probably not.

What they need is to start cutting some of their over-paid, under-achieving players like defensive tackle Alfonso Boone and defensive end Bryan Robinson and re-tool through the draft and free agency. General

Manager Jerry Angelo spent last off-season getting quality depth, and it paid off, to some extent.

But with starting corner R. W. McQuarters and primary backup Reggie Austin out for extended periods, some quality depth is still needed, especially in the cornerback-safety spots. Also, Robinson has been ineffective this year due to recovering from wrist injuries, and also getting pulled over twice for DUI, which led to a suspension.

Coaching: As much respect and praise that I have for head coach Dick Jauron, he is just too loyal. This quality is usually a good thing, but Jauron is almost stubborn with his loyalty.

He is loyal to his assistant coaches (Jauron, defending them to a fault), even when he knows something is wrong. Like Robinson, for example, Jauron knew of his first DUI but promised not to tell anybody and with offensive and defensive coordinators Greg Blache and John Shop, respectively, Jauron stands by them and their decisions no matter how idiotic they seem, or ineffective they are. Since the Bears are going to be in the rebuilding mood this off-season, they should be in the market for another coordinator as well.

Are the Bears done for this season? Probably. But should we give up hope? Never. No matter how bad they become, they will always be DA BEARS.



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Sewage backup on bridge causes \$25,000 in damage

Numerous clubs and organization on campus disrupted by flooding

By David Ashby

A sewage backup in the center of the bridge on Dec. 2 damaged the floors and disrupted numerous student organizations on campus, including the Student Alliance and the Blazer newspaper. The cost of damage has been estimated at around \$25,000.

Though the exact cause of the sewage backup is currently under investigation, Scaver Tarulis, director of the Physical Plant, said that the most likely reason was because of the installation of new ejector pumps the previous weekend. These pumps siphon waste from one end of the bridge to the other in pipes underneath the walkway.

According to Tarulis, because the pumps that were replaced were not running at full capacity, there may have been a buildup of waste in pipes that had been accumulating for a long period of time.

With the new pumps running at full capacity, the excess waste would

have been too much for the sewage system to handle, which may have led to the massive sewage backup on the center of the bridge.

"This seems to be the most logical explanation of it [the sewage backup]," said Tarulis.

The repairs, some of which have already been completed, include laying down new carpet for the Blazer office, the Student Alliance office and the presentation area at the center of the bridge. The floor lies underneath the carpet and will also probably need to be replaced, as well as some small sections of drywall.

Also, a major section of the carpet on the east corridor of the bridge was destroyed. Because it is a difficult style of carpet to locate, an independent contractor will probably have to replace the entire carpet on that side of the bridge, all the way from J building to the Concourse area.

To ensure that this does not happen again, the sewage lines will be flushed out and a second check valve will be installed to prevent another backflow of sewage.

Tarulis says that a majority of the work will have to be done during Christmas break. The repairs are ex-



Police tape prevents access to a damaged section of the bridge

Photo by Adam Favus

pected to be completed by January of 2003.

The Student Alliance, who were forced out of their offices throughout the week of Dec. 2 because of the damage, worked feverishly during the first part of the semester to help promote the \$251 million referendum, which failed to pass on Nov. 5.

Patrick Hannigan, Collegiate Club Counsel representative for the

Student Alliance and chairperson for Action for Freedom, said that it was ironic that the Student Alliance was directly affected by the sewage backup because the referendum would have given JJC extra money to repair and update the maintenance of the colleges buildings.

"The students deserve an educational institution whose infrastructure is working properly," said Hannigan.

Champs

Wolves bring home championship trophy

Football team posts perfect season on way to national NJCAA title

By Adam Fox

down of the game, giving the Wolves the final score of 24-14.

There were many reasons why Wolves had such a phenomenal season. For one, the team was loaded with all-stars. On the offensive side of the ball, two players that really shined were quarterback Jim Peyton and receiver Kelvin Hayden.

Peyton passed Kevin Bay-Anderson from the 1994 team to become the new single season passing leader. This season he completed 113 of 201 passes for 2,081 yards and 24 touchdowns.

"Jimmy has really played well for us all season long," said head

coach Bob MacDougall. "The effort, concentration and poise he has shown us behind center has made our team that much better."

Hayden has been Peyton's go-to guy all season long. The deadly combo has hooked up for 66 receptions for 1,176 yards and 12 touchdowns. This massive offensive feat has made Hayden the new single season reception leader, surpassing Demetri Johnson from the 1989 team. Hayden was also named Offensive Player of the Year for the North Central Community College Conference.

Defensively, the Wolves have stars emerging at every position. The unit was lead by cornerback Derrick Phillips. Phillips, who has recently been named Player of the Week for the NCC, leads the conference with five interceptions, and has notched 27 tackles. Phillips, a sophomore, has been a leader to one of the best defenses in JJC history.



JJC trustee Dick Dystar addresses the crowd at the Dec. 9 rally that honored the No. 1 Wolves.

Photo by David Ashby

The JJC football team won its first ever NJCAA National Championship on Dec. 7 against Georgia Military College in the Golden Isles Bowl Classic in Brunswick, Ga. with a final score of 24-14. With this win, the Wolves secure an overall record of 11-0 and a conference record of 8-0.

Though the Bulldogs sported a 14-0 lead, the Wolves struck back before halftime with a 94-yard touchdown drive that raised the score to 7-14. Then, in the third quarter, sophomore kicker Greg Gunderson hit a 45-yard field goal that slowly closed the gap with a score of 10-14.

In the fourth quarter, reserve quarterback Robert Sullivan blocked a Bulldog punt in the endzone. Back-up linebacker Billy Glover recovered the blocked punt to give the Wolves a 17-14 lead with a little over nine minutes left in the game. Then, with just a few minutes left, fullback Doron Taylor sealed the deal with the final touch-

Winterfest spreads Christmas cheer throughout JJC campus

By Jessica Harvey

Holiday cheer filled JJC's main campus on Saturday, Dec. 7, when the Winter Festival kicked into gear. Ice carving, caroling and song tasting were just some of the festivities offered over the weekend.

This was the second annual festival held at JJC. The Winter Festival was the brainchild of former faculty member Kim Frauli and community relations marketing specialist Deana Ligda.

"What really motivated us is that we felt that JJC needed to give something back to the community," said Ligda.

Ice sculptures created by culinary arts department Chair Michael McGeal and his students decorated the school entrance and greeted visitors. Culinary arts students also had their own gingerbread house creations on display in the cafeteria.

For those who wished to stay warm during the chilly winter season, there were many indoor activities at this campus-wide event that was open

to the public. Attendees were welcomed to the festival with free samples of the soups and dips sold at the JJC Bookstore.

One of the most successful events at the festival came fun fair games and pictures with Santa, which raised over \$650.

Children were able to partake in fun games such as mini-golf, pinball, duck pond and bozo buckets.

The event also offered a chance for volunteers to get acquainted with other members of the community.

"I enjoyed working with people I wouldn't normally get the chance to meet," said student Maria Arri, who volunteered at the children's games throughout the day.

Children's activities weren't the only things offered at the event; there were events provided for the adults as well. Visitors were able to get some Christmas shopping done at the festival, thanks to crafters from the surrounding area who were selling their merchandise along the C-F concourse and on the bridge. With items such as ceramics, jewelry, ornaments, candy and wreaths, the attendees had many items to choose from.

Not only were visitors able to get some shopping done, but they were also able to hear the enchanting voices of the members from the JJC Chamber Singers who caroled throughout the campus. Local-area dance schools also provided entertainment for people who stopped by the cafeteria.

"A lot of people were thrilled that there was so much going on, and it wasn't just in one part of the campus," said Ligda. "The whole idea for this is to be a family-oriented event."



Ben Favus loves painting at Winterfest

Photo by Adam Favus

Blazer View

Rape is more than just a statistic-it needs to be addressed

Take a moment to think about every female relative, friend and acquaintance that you have. Reflect on how much they mean to you and what an important role these people play in your life.

Now think about the fact that one out of three of these women will be the victims of rape. This statistic comes from a 1994 FBI report on rape cases in the United States.

Rape affects all members of our society, not just the victims and the people who carry out this horrendous act. This issue needs to be publicly addressed instead of being put on the back burner or swept under the table just because a lot

people are afraid to address this extremely personal topic.

While the legal definition of rape varies from state to state, forcible rape is defined as sexual intercourse that takes place as a result of force or threats of force, rather than consent from the sexual partner. According to the 1994 FBI Report to the National Victim Center, only 53 percent of the cases of forcible rape reported in 1993 led to the arrest of the alleged perpetrator. This means that nearly half of the alleged rapists who were reported to officials that year were still on the streets.

While the statistics may be shocking to some, they are all too

common to others. Since rape has the second lowest conviction rate (it is second only to domestic abuse), victims are oftentimes reluctant to even report the crime.

Many people mistakenly assume that rape occurs only when the perpetrator is a stranger. Not only is this statement false, but it is also harmful to rape victims and especially the victims of acquaintance rape. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice, approximately 68 percent of rape victims knew their assailant.

Common myths also help fuel falsehoods about rape. Oftentimes rape victims are made to believe that

if they know the rapist, then it's not actually rape or it's not as serious as being raped by a stranger.

Unfortunately, rape is also prevalent on college campuses throughout the United States. During an average college year, about 3 percent of women attending college experience a completed and/or attempted rape during a typical college year, according to a report by the Justice Department National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Statistics.

That same study also found that the women did not consider about half of the incidents categorized as complete rapes to truly be rape.

While women and girls account

for nine out of every 10 rape victims, men and boys are victims of this crime as well. According to the 1996 National Crime Victimization Survey from the U.S. Department of Justice, in 1995 32,130 males age 12 and older were victims of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault. And according to a 1994 FBI report one out of seven men will be raped in their lifetime.

Obviously, this is an issue that greatly impacts our society, both men and women, and causes damage beyond belief to the victims and their loved ones. Silencing rape will only do more harm to this already difficult issue.

Nursing student fights back against odds

Brain surgery doesn't hold back Kelly Spiewak from graduating

By Stacey Murphy
Assistant Professor, English

The hardest part of my job is not the daily performance of professorship or the nightly hours of grading and studying. I can give up my sense of self enough to enjoy it and have never really cared for prime time television. Those things do not bother me. What does bother me, though, is constantly defending my boundaries—the rules students push to their limits: from late papers and missed tests to absence policies.

I have to battle to hold my boundaries. Listening to the excuses as to why assignments are not read, papers are not written in time or why making it to class has become too challenging. In an effort to make my classroom more of the real world, I dole out benevolent pardons and malevolent penalties, attempting to sort the excuses I hear in class, on my voicemail, or even read in my email. But holding these boundaries can exact a price.

When the daily grind started literally grinding on my nerves, in my head, I could not ignore the headaches that lasted for nearly three weeks. So, I consulted a friend in the nursing department.

"You really should go to the doctor. It's probably nothing, or just stress, but have it checked out," she paused. "I won't tell you about my student, though."

She did tell me about her student, though, the one who went into the hospital with headaches over the weekend, and underwent brain surgery the next week.

The shocking part of the story was not the ultimate life and death situation this student so quickly faced and able, well graduate with her class this December. What was so impressive was the fact that she did it, and returned to school one week after surgery, missing only one quiz and one day of clinical work.

Kelly Spiewak, despite encountering one of the biggest obstacles imaginable, will graduate with her class this December.

After battling headaches for

nearly three months, Spiewak finally gave in to make an appointment with an ophthalmologist. Figuring she needed glasses. When the headaches continued, she consulted another doctor, only to be told the headaches were probably caused by "stress."

However, while working at the hospital one day, the pain became so severe she could no longer stand it, and checked herself into the emergency room at St. Joe's. After several extensive tests, including a CAT scan and an MRI, Spiewak was told that she had a 1.5 centimeter bleed in her frontal lobe, an apparently congenital condition. A vein in her brain had twisted, and was now incapable of handling the blood flow traveling through that area. Eventually, the vein gives out and bleeds. The situation was serious.

"I was scared. I didn't want surgery," Spiewak says, reflecting on her condition.

She admits, though, that one of her most pressing thoughts was "What about school?" I'm supposed to graduate in December."

Spiewak was painfully reminded of this again, even as she lie in the hospital, soon to be transferred to Loyola for brain surgery. A nursing instructor of hers came in to visit, leaving with a farewell something like "I guess we'll see you next semester."

This was not acceptable to Spiewak. She thought to herself, "There is no way I'm not graduating in December. I want to move forward with my life."

Spiewak was determined to not let her health condition impede her progress. "I kept thinking, 'I'm so close, and not being able to graduate with my class, the ones I've been going to school with, to work with, to clinical with...I've been planning my life around school and I'm ready to be done now.'" Spiewak even admitted to holding off on getting married, waiting until after she completed her degree.

On Wednesday, Sept. 18, Spiewak underwent brain surgery. Her skin was sliced from the bottom of one ear, across her head and to the top of her other ear. Carefully, doctors slid her skin forward, so as to expose the area of the skull they needed to enter in order to remove the damaged vein area amidst the folds of her brain.

The surgery was a success.

Although Spiewak's post-op concerns included such scary thoughts as "Will there be any permanent physical damage?" and "Will I suffer any brain function losses because of the surgery?," her determination and drive in school surfaced quickly.

At Loyola, her doctor told her to worry more about her health and her life than school. But Spiewak's reply was, "You don't understand. School is my life."

Missing only one day of clinical work and the quiz, Spiewak returned to school one week after having brain surgery.

"Yeah, I felt like crap, and I was so tired." Especially difficult after brain surgery is dealing with the pain. Minimal pain medication is given to brain surgery patients, as this interferes with the functions of the brain and doesn't give physicians and patients an accurate representation of post-op conditions.

But regardless, Spiewak sat in her desk one week after major surgery. That was it—no exhaustive messages or dialogues about legitimate absences or make-up work. Spiewak's potentially life-threatening condition was diagnosed, treated and quickly surpassed so that she could still achieve her goal of graduation this December.

What is it this student has that makes her work so hard, want an education so badly?

Spiewak's own advice, given from her new perspective on life is to "Push. Don't give up—and don't be afraid to try. I knew it'd be hard to get back into school, but I'd be more upset if I hadn't tried."

So, I'll keep trying to see through my days of headaches and excuses because here is one person who would not let something as significant as brain surgery slow her down.

I, too, need to push, to not let the stream of student excuses get to me and to keep focused on the students who have this same desire to earn and achieve. And, if a student or two really does cause me more stress, then I'll try to remember how one person overcame a much more life altering and stressful situation, to still attain, in a goal.

My headaches? They're just stress-related—nothing the semester break won't help to heal.

The *Blazer* would like to thank the following people for helping us through the recent flood:



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You guys rock!

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'Dying' to get fit for the new year

Common ingredient in dietary supplements is considered dangerous

By David Ashby

When the champagne bottles open and the fireworks start crackling at midnight on Jan. 1, 2003, millions of Americans, as well as thousands of JJC students, staff and faculty will start their New Year's resolutions. The unquestionably king of all of these resolutions is the goal to lose weight and to get into shape.

However, as the fitness industry looks ahead to January to March, which is one of their most profitable times of the year, the consumer needs to be aware about the dangers of over-the-counter dietary supplements that contain ephedra.

Ephedra, which is also called ephedrine and ma huang, is the active ingredient in many diet pills and supplements. Indigenous to Asia, the herb works on the heart and central nervous system to speed up the user's metabolism.

Some of the popular weight loss products that contain ephedra include Hydroxycut, Metabolife, Stacker 2, Stacker 3, Xenadrine RFA-1, Ripped

uets, ephedra is both understudied and dangerous.

According to the Public Citizen Organization, a health watchdog group, about 100 deaths have been linked to ephedra use. They also link 32 heart attacks, 62 reports of cardiac arrhythmia, 91 reports of hypertension, 69 strokes and 70 seizures to the drug. Yet despite these documented cases, the Food and Drug Administration has not banned dietary products containing ephedra.

To release a new drug, the manufacturer must prove beyond a reasonable doubt to the FDA that their product is both safe and effective. This is done through time-consuming and expensive tests and experiments.

The only way that drug companies can afford to go through this rigid approval process is because they own patents on their drugs, which give them exclusive ownership rights for a certain number of years. This in turn ensures that they gain their money back when the drug is finally released.

However, dietary supplements, unlike other drugs, are exempt from the FDA's approval process because of a loophole in American laws. Because the ingredients of dietary supplements occur naturally in nature and have been in use for thousands of years, they cannot be patented. The same principle could be compared to a patent on an apple or a banana.

Without this patent protection, drug companies could definitely not afford to send their drugs through the expensive approval process.

Congress answered this problem in 1994 when it passed the Dietary Supplements Health and Education Act. This act exempts the dietary supplement companies from the extensive approval process that other drugs must go through.

It also says that dietary supplements can be sold until they are officially proven dangerous. Since the

supplement companies are exempt from extensive testing, the burden of proving that they are safe falls into the hands of the FDA. However, the FDA does not have the budget for this type of extensive testing, and because of this the supplement industry and their products are practically unregulated by the government.

Despite all of these negative claims, the supplement companies are quick to point out that ephedra is safe when used in the recommended amounts. Yet despite these claims of



It looking like this worth dying for?

safety, somebody could easily see how dangerous these drugs are just by reading the warning labels on the side of the pill bottles.

One of these labels, which is from the over-the-counter diet pill Hydroxycut, warns that anybody with high blood pressure, a psychiatric disease, nervousness, liver, thyroid or kidney problems, anxiety, depression, peptic ulcers, recurrent headaches, glaucoma, asthma, anemia, a bleeding disorder, diabetes, a seizure disorder or a history of drug or alcohol abuse should not take the product. Does this actually sound safe?

So basically, even though the supplement companies are saying that their products are completely safe when taken in the recommended amounts, these warning labels essentially say something different: that their diet pills are only for the most healthy obese person.

The bottom line is that even though ephedra has both powerful proponents and opponents, the herb is not properly researched and can put a user's health (and life) in jeopardy. So when Jan. 1 rolls around, think twice about listening to those appealing television commercials that advertise wonder diet pills that can make you lose weight in minimal time and effort.

Besides, if you want to really get into shape, the safest and most productive way is through rigorous dieting and exercising.

Letter to the Editor



Scrub-a-dub-dub if you don't want germs taking over your body!

Photo by Adam Fazzari
Hands courtesy of Pierre Palacios

Bathroom habits of JJC students and employees are in the toilet

As we enter this season of communal illnesses that run rampant, something that has been bothering me since the beginning of the semester bears discussion, the high number of people on this campus who don't wash their hands after using the bathroom. Fifty hands down, almost every time I've used a bathroom at JJC when other people were using the facilities, at least one person doing their business walked out of the bathroom without even so much as throwing a nod in the neglected sink's direction.

To talk about this issue at all may seem strange or embarrassing, but I think the thrust of this article is even more unbelievable. I cannot understand how grown people do not have the sense of cleanliness and self to do something as essential as washing their hands after going to the restroom. Think of how many people you shake hands with in a day, how many doorknobs, desks, computer keyboards and mice, writing utensils, books, etc., that you share with people and touch every single day.

Now consider the fact that a great number of these same people may not have the decency to wash their hands after expelling waste matter from their bodies, an, ahem...hands on job for both genders.

I've seen not only students who go straight from a toilet to the door (some have even stepped to primp their hair with unwashed hands), but I have seen multiple counts of faculty and staff members doing the same. Did mommy and daddy not teach these individuals that it is essential to good health to do something as simple and basic as thoroughly washing one's hands after using the facilities? Would these same people purposefully handle waste matter from someone else before going on with their daily chores, including eating? What is the difference when you're sharing your own germs with

everyone else, and vice-versa?

Just a step up from those who don't bother to touch the water and the soap at all are those who make a half-assed effort as if someone were watching. They know what the right thing to do is, but would rather go through the motions for sense of show. This individual likes to whisk their hands quickly under the water, oftentimes without using any soap (that's the goopy, liquidy stuff in those funny boxes on the wall next to the sink). I suppose the effort is somewhat appreciable, but the execution is a sham. Hygiene experts say the only way to properly clean germs and viruses from our hands are through vigorous scrubbing and use of a cleaning agent such as soap. The college doesn't spend our tax money on soap for nothing. It's there for your use. Trust me, it won't hurt you.

Before starting at this college, I despise having a preschooler at home (notorious transmitters of illness), rarely get sick. Since the beginning of this semester, I have been ill three separate times, and I wonder if the cause of it could be the appalling lack of hygiene that I have witnessed too many times on this campus. It seems ludicrous to even have to talk about this, but it's a problem, relegated to the stalls and porcelain closets that everyone just overlooks.

The next time you are using one of the school's washrooms observe other student and faculty members' cleaning habits. Perhaps if you don't take the time to wash your own hands, seeing what they're doing (or rather, not doing) through the actions of others will make you reconsider practicing more cleanly habits.

Steven Awall



Beware of products that contain ephedra.

Fuel, Metab-O-LITE and Herbalife Thermogenetics Original Green and Berge.

Since the early 1990s, the use of this herb has increased dramatically. According to the Ephedra Education Council, a survey conducted in 1999 shows that between 12 and 15 million Americans consume more than three billion servings of ephedra products each year.

Also, according to a study conducted by the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity, the use of non-prescription diet pills will increase in the upcoming years.

However, despite the widespread use and the popularity of these prod-

Letter Policy

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters.

Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at H-1015B.

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By Matt Furlane

The term forensics is often associated with crime scenes and for gathering evidence in an investigation. But a more traditional definition of the word involves the use of speech in a competitive format in events like extemporaneous and persuasive speaking. It is this type of forensics that the JJC speech team has participated in

ments. "This has been a really good year for us," said Clay Kirkland, Director of Forensics. "Last year, which was quite a good year, we won 29 trophies all together...we're not that far from last years total."

In addition to the traditional speaking events, team members have competed in interpretive events. JCI students Katie Brisick and Jennifer Hughs have taken first in Duo Interpretation. Hughs has also finished first in Oral Interpretation. Derrick Trumbly, Brandon Lindloff, Taya Langlois and Steve Elmore all have finished second in Duo Interpretation events and Langlois and Trumbly have finished second in dramatic interpretation events.

In their most recent tournament at College of Lake County on December 7th speech team members Derrick Trumbly and Brandon Lindloff took first in the Duo Interpretation event and Taya Langlois took first in Dramatic Interpretation. "My final round was possibly the roughest final

for over 20 years.

This semester the team has attended four tournaments and is on track to surpass last year's achieve-



Jade Phillips recites poetry

Photo by Adam Farcus

choose as many as five.

"For the past two years I participated in several events," said student and coaching assistant Geoff Arndt. "My favorite is oral interpretation which is a category where you take pieces of prose, poetry and drama and put them together with a program style."

Arndt, who did not participate this fall but will rejoin the team to compete in the spring, said that on average students participate in three to four events.

There are currently about 15 students participating on this semester's team. They are allowed to choose their format based on their strengths and the team's need. Each student chooses their work at the beginning of the semester and uses it throughout the year, practicing each week and making

changes as necessary

Assistant Director of Forensics Bobette Wolesensky, who helps team members during the week, stated

"Once they have material selected it's practice, practice, practice," she said. "And then after each event, reviewing judges ballots to see what kind of comments the judges made and provide feedback...you have to be willing to perfect your ability to communicate with other people."

Although the emphasis of forensics can be the competition, it can also be a good experience and fun. Future speech team member Matt Steffan, who attended the Lake County tournament, agreed emphatically, "As an outside observer I thought the competition was very very intense, it was a pleasure to be there, especially watching so many talented young people up there giving it their all for their own college."

Coach Kirkland felt the same.

"There's a lot of camaraderie among the team members, they enjoy being with each other and we do have a good time at the tournaments. You get to meet and interact with students from other schools across the state and the region and across the country."

Team members are looking forward to next semester, which will include two regular tournaments and then state and regionals in March, where the JJC team will compete against four-year programs from places like ISU and Bradley. In April, thanks to much needed grant money, the team will send some of it's top available members to Portland, Oregon for the Phi Ro Pi Nationals - the single largest speech tournament in the nation that can draw up to 800 competitors.

Students who wish to participate on the tea may contact Clay Kirkland at 280-2706 or Bobette Wolcsensky at ex 280-2833.

By Bill Byerley

Video and audio from DVDs and the Internet turn the personal computer into an ultimate multimedia entertainment center. Most users concentrate on the latest graphic cards, while sound quality doesn't even get a second look.

Wouldn't it be great to take advantage of the audio systems that make the entire room sound like you were in a battle zone? Many companies that are out there make them. Creative Labs, for example, allows you to upgrade both your computer's sound card and speaker system.

Several companies also provide speaker systems such as the \$100 5.1 Speaker System from Altec Lansing (www.alteclansing.com). This particular system provides users with the capability to support an MP3 player, televisions, CD players, video gaming systems and portable devices. Caution: some devices may need a 3.5mm line out / telephone jack.

Also included within the \$100 system are five satellite speakers and

a subwoofer. Other features are a headphone jack, auxiliary input jack, cast alloy speaker stands, color coded cables and a fully functional digital controller.

Users may choose from three listening modes, such as the 5.1 mode for six-channel sound cards. The most commonly used for movie watching is the 4.1 mode, which is also for true four channel gaming. Stereo x2 is for the popular music lovers.

The setup of the system is very simple and will not take long. Setup will only entail plugging in the right jacks into the sound card and on the other devices connected. Setup instructions are included and instructions are clearly defined.

A small change for a great sound system will make you wonder if you are really in the mood for a battle. That small change will only cost around \$150 to \$180 and will outweigh the sound that the PC manufacturers may include with your computer.

Again, I strongly suggest anyone that may have concerns or questions to contact me at news@pagedesk.com.

leonardo dicaprio

tom hanks

a STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM

if you can

The true story
of a real fake.

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DREAMWORKS PICTURES

Christmas Day

North Campus reaches out to students

New photography lab, new programs and cafe service among changes

By Evan Lukowski

The JJC North Campus on Romeo Road in Romeoville is a relatively small and quiet facility that does not seem to garner much attention from the majority of JJC students. This seems to be slowly changing, though, due to the recent and upcoming additions and events in store for the 35,000-square-foot campus.

One recent change many students are unaware of is last year's addition of cafe service. The idea, according to Marsha McCormick, current acting associate dean at North Campus, is to get more students to stick around and create a more active learning atmosphere.

"Our primary goal is to include more students, and to get them to hang around a little more," said McCormick. McCormick also cited the recent availability of COMPASS testing at the Resource Center and the new express e-mail stations in the cafeteria as examples of this effort.

Apparently, the plan has been working. Some employees at North Campus have definitely noticed more students.

"Oh, no doubt about it," says Erol Wilson, evening custodial associate at North Campus. "Ever since they added that cafe service with the pizza and what not, and those e-mail stations in there, a lot more students have been hanging around here."

Another significant change in the works is the addition of a photography lab due in this spring. The photo lab will replace one of the current classrooms, and will become the first and only photo lab available to students on any of JJC's current campuses, including the Main Campus.



The North Campus of JJC in Romeoville

Photo courtesy of the Blazer archives

This new lab will be introduced along with two new exclusive North Campus classes, ART 125 and ART 225, also arriving for the spring semester. This new expansion will be North Campus's second unique lab and course offering combination, alongside the popular Cisco Lab and associated programs currently available.

Not all of the planned expansions for North Campus will be implemented in the near future, however. The failure of a recent JJC referendum that asked voters to increase funding for the 101-year-old institution has put many planned expansions on hold.

Expansion plans for the North Campus include renovations to both infrastructure and construction. Among these proposed improvements was the much-needed addition of 16 new classrooms to the single-story facility. The referendum will likely be up for approval again at the next elections according to school officials, who are only treating this as a delay to the planned renovations at all campuses.

Outside of expansion and changes to North Campus, public events are regularly held at the North

Campus. For example, a chiropractor was on-hand performing free massages to any student or employee in attendance. In addition, the very popular Book Fair held at North Campus will be held this spring as well. Plans for a blood drive in coordination with Heartland Blood Centers is also in the works.



Est 'till your heart's content at North Campus.

Distance Ed. on rise at JJC

By Brian Delaney

How would you like to go to school naked? Do I have your attention now? Then maybe you will be interested in this. The option of going to school in the nude is made possible thanks to JJC's Distance Education courses. School can now be attended from the privacy of your own home.

There are currently two different styles of courses to meet your needs: online classes and telecourses. These classes are essential to those who work full time, have limited transportation or absolutely insist on not wearing clothes while getting an education. Every semester, more classes are being added to the curriculum to further benefit those in need.

The online classes, which run off of the Blackboard system, require the student to have access to the Internet and an e-mail account with JJC. All online courses meet the same requirements and have the same amount of credits as any other class on campus. Although a majority of the course work is done online, a few campus visits may be required for testing purposes. To date, there are over 40 classes to choose from, including 12 math classes and five English classes. In addition, there are other required classes including Psychology 101, Speech 101 and History 103.

Be advised though, if you are a completely computer illiterate, the online classes are not for you. It is necessary to know how to download files, attach documents to e-mail and use word pro-

cessing software. Also, some knowledge of Power Point is helpful. Despite the occasional bug here and there, the online classes are becoming more and more popular.

In addition to the online courses, the Distance Education department offers telecourses. These courses integrate the use of videos with study guides and the selected text. There are currently 18 classes being offered with a wide range of subject matter. American National Government, Chemistry 104, History 103 and 104 and Astronomy 101 are just a few of the possible classes to take.

For more information pertaining to the Distance Education courses, please visit their website at www.jjc.edu/distance to view the full list of available classes. Or please call Lynn Orsini, Administrative Assistant, or Dr. Robert E. Sterling, Director, at (815) 280-6613.

The Distance Education testing center is located on the fourth floor of the J-building.



Classrooms are a thing of the past due to distance education.

Photo courtesy of

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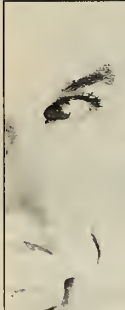
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The jazz band plays smooth grooves at the Dec. 6 concert

Photo by Adam Farcus

Jazzin' up the holidays

JJC offers programs for the Christmas season

By Justin Johnson

The Joliet Junior College Fine Arts Department is doing its best to make the holidays more cheerful this year with a variety of December events.

On Dec. 6, the JJC Jazz Band started the festivities with a winter concert. Joined by the Morris Community High School Jazz Band, both ensembles played a variety of jazz favorites as well as spreading a little

Christmas cheer with a couple of "jazzed up" Christmas standards. This was the last appearance for JJC's jazz band until the Elmhurst Jazz Festival in February.

The following Sunday, Dec. 8, the JJC Chorale provided additional holiday atmosphere with more traditional Christmas songs and holiday cheer.

On Friday, Dec. 13, the Fine Arts Department presents the Madrigal Dinner. This promises to be a night full of great food and entertainment. All the food will be prepared by the JJC and Renaissance Center Culinary Arts Department. Tickets are \$38. For reservations, and more information, call (815) 230-2223.

On Sunday, Dec. 15, the JJC Community Band will perform its annual winter concert, and on the following Tuesday, Dec. 17, the JJC Percussion Ensemble will also perform with special guests from Minooka High School Marching Percussion Band.

For information regarding Fine Arts events, call the Artsline, (815) 729-9020, extension ARTS.



Gary Kurbis toots his horn at the JJC Jazz Band Concert.

Photo by Adam Farcus

Matchbox Twenty and Paul McCartney are definitely 'more than you think'



Matchbox Twenty
More Than You Think You Are

****1/2

By Jason Baloun

Like so many pop/rock bands have done before them, Matchbox Twenty chose to stick with their basic formula for this CD. What separates them from all the others is that for them it works.

More Than You Think You Are is their third release and contains 12 very likable tracks. It is a rare thing to be able to listen to a CD the whole way through every time you listen to it, and then immediately want to listen to it again.

There is no doubt that Rob Thomas is Matchbox Twenty. His vocals drive the entire disc as he gives his heart and soul to make you want to listen, and you will.

The first single, "Disease," was co-written with Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones, which is a sign that Matchbox Twenty is a pretty well respected band. It's probably the fastest paced song on the disc, but only one of many good tracks.

Every band needs a song that deals with psychological problems, and "Unwell" is that song for Matchbox Twenty. Thomas sings, "I'm not

crazy I'm just a little unwell, I know right now you can't tell." Maybe he's letting the public in on a little secret. "Feed" is another semi-heavy song where Kyle Cook shows off his guitar skills. Cook's guitar riffs are noticeable throughout the disc, and it works well with Thomas's vocals.

If you've always been a fan of Matchbox Twenty then you will love *More Than You Think You Are*. If you've never really listened to the band, then now is the time. They've never sounded better or more confident with themselves. A U.S. tour should be on the horizon.



Paul McCartney
Back in the U.S. Live 2002

By Jason Baloun

When you think of successful music careers, Paul McCartney immediately comes to mind. The man behind the Beatles and Wings is back on the road again. After wrapping up one U.S. tour, he decided to go back out and do it again.

Back in the U.S. contains a career-spanning 36 live tracks recorded in various cities during the spring tour.

On McCartney's website he said,

"I wanted the album to capture the spirit of some magical nights on the road as a lifelong reminder for the great crowds who shared them with us."

Even if you didn't get a chance to go to one of the shows, this CD is a good buy. The Beatles era songs sound more alive than ever before, and you'll find yourself singing along to classics like "Can't Buy Me Love," "Eleanor Rigby," "Sergeant Pepper" and "Let It Be."

McCartney's voice is as strong today as it has ever been. When he sings the songs he used to sing with Linda McCartney, you can almost feel the pain in his heart. This tour was not only about reconnecting with his fans, but also had a lot to do with putting his past behind him.

The price isn't as high as you would expect for a double disc set, which is another plus. If you're looking for that one present to finish your Christmas shopping, this is it.

Back in the U.S. is a generation spanning disc that can be enjoyed by all kinds of people regardless of their usual musical tastes.

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Games that make you want to steal Santa's sack

Your video game gift-giving guide for the holiday season

By Damon Wrona

If you love playing video games you're probably asking yourself two questions: Where am I going to get the money to get all the great games coming out and how am I going to find the time to play them all? Well, I'm sorry to say that I can't help you with either of those questions. However, I can help you decide what you should be asking Santa to put under your tree this year.

You've got to love the video game companies. They give you little to play most of the year, and then unleash



A scene from *Mortal Kombat: Deadly Alliance*.

more games than you could hope to play in a year in the span of two months, all for your holiday dollar. A lot of these games are great, but some are garbage rushed out of the gate in time for the holiday shopping spree. So I've put together a little list of what you should be playing on your system



Party hardy with Mario and friends.

of choice by the time the new year hits.

Playstation 2: Sony's domination of the video game market continues this holiday season with the release of the PS2 exclusive *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City*. For those three of you that haven't played GTA 3, this sequel is basically that game on steroids. If fighting games are your thing, the PS2 has you covered with system exclusives *Virtua Fighter 4* and *Tekken 4*. Those who enjoy a little more blood might want to give *Mortal Kombat: Deadly Alliance* a go. You can't go wrong with *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, and for all you classic gamers, *Rygar*, *Shinobi* and *Contra* will make comebacks.

X-Box: Microsoft's system doesn't have nearly the amount of titles out as the PS2, but it does have *Metal Gear Solid 2: Substance*, the update of one

of the PS2's best games ever. Sports fans have it good with the X-Box. It has the same titles as the other systems (Madden, NFL 2K3, NBA Live, NHL 2K3) but packs the best graphics. And if you do own an X-Box, you better be asking for your X-Box Live Starter Kit. And don't forget *Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 4*, which can also be found on the other systems.

Gamecube:

Nintendo enters the holidays with its stable of mascot/exclusive games including *Super Mario Sunshine* and the unbelievable *Metroid Prime*. If you own a Gamecube you simply must get these A+ titles. If you like a little scare in your gaming be sure to ask for the prequel *Resident Evil Zero* or the mind-bending *Eternal Darkness*.

Titles to Avoid:

Don't bother with *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*. The game is based on the books entirely, which isn't a bad thing, but the game is just awful. Do not attend *Mario Party 4*. Skip any sports titles exclusive to the Xbox (NFL Fever, NBA Inside Drive). And don't buy the hype of *Smackdown: Shut Your Mouth*. If you need updated rosters of the same mediocre wrestling game, then this title is for you.

Star Wars: The battle begins

Star Wars: The Clone Wars 8/10

By Damon Wrona



After watching the opening battle of the clone wars in *Episode II: Attack of the Clones*, I got the impression that it didn't take a genius to realize that the people at LucasArts



Jedis have the biggest guns in this game!

would soon make this into a video game. Just as the tagline says: "Where Episode II ends, your battle begins." The Clone Wars is a vehicular-based combat game, which means you will find yourself behind the controls of all those cool vehicles you saw at the end of *Attack of the Clones*. These range from the handy assault tank, which you spend a lot of time in, to the "chicken walkers" that look like the proto-type of the empires AT-PT.

The action is quite frantic and really puts you into the heart of these enormous battles.

Thankfully, the game clearly helps you find your way through the mess of destruction with combat chatter and directional arrows pointing to where you need to be. Each mission has varied goals you must accomplish. These can range from protecting convoys to assaulting massive enemy outposts. The game also offers bonus objectives that will unlock hidden DVD style goodies and extra multi-player maps.

Multi-player is actually a lot of fun and offers traditional modes of play, such as death match, but also features cool new modes that are very strategic, like conquest mode. The multi-player stuff keeps the game fresh after you've completed the single player campaign.

The game controls are very fluid and feel very natural. It won't take you long to settle in.

The graphics are also pretty sharp. Nothing spectacular, but considering all the stuff going on around you, it's pretty darn good.

Overall, this is a fun game that *Star Wars* fans will love.

Those who aren't strong in the force might also want to give this one a try.

As an action game without the *Star Wars* skin, it's still pretty good



Nice shirt, "Don Johnson" A scene from *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City*.

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Serious Education for Serious People



December 11, 2002

page 10

The Entertainment Buzz

By Tiffani Hipp

Let's get strô to the point. All you hip-hop fans would certainly like to know that Benzino has ignited a beef with the only rapper you don't want mad at you, Eminem. As you may or may not know, Benzino is the mind behind the hip-hop magazine, *The Source*, which introduced Eminem as an up-and-coming talent before he was big.

According to MTV news, the beef started when Benzino called Eminem a 2003 Vanilla Ice. In his song "Pull Up Your Skirt," he goes on to say that Eminem is just "industry hype." The ever-so-busy Eminem has recorded two songs in response to the Benzino dis called "I Don't Wanna" and "Nail In The Coffin." The two songs will be featured on DJ Kay Slays new mix tape. For more on this story check out www.mtvnews.com.

Moving along, Queen Latifah was arrested on Nov. 20 for driving under the influence of alcohol. She was released on \$2,500 bond and will ap-

pear in court on Dec. 11.

Unless you've been living in a box, you probably know that Michael Jackson dangled his baby over a hotel balcony in Berlin. The police there were looking into the situation and have now ruled out pressing any charges, saying that there was no evidence of a punishable offense.

In other news of interest, pop superstar Justin Timberlake broke his foot recently at a rehearsal. On his doctor's orders, he has been forced to cancel promotions for two weeks. The video for his new single "Cry Me A River," will sit always this coming Tuesday. For more entertainment news check out www.ew.com.



Queen Latifah

Rated KCH: Keep children at home

By Matt Sheehan

No, do not expect a movie review from me this month, my friends: No review of *Die Another Day* or *Analyze That*. Maybe on my web site, but this time, I am going to provide a commentary that is more of a venting than an opinion. This column is dedicated to all you parents who bring your children who are 6-and-under to the movie theater. My question is why?

There are many reasons why you should not bring any young children to a movie theater. For one reason, you says that even at the child rate of \$5 they are even going to stay in their seat and watch the movie anyhow? All they do is run up and down the aisle, bounce up and down in their seat (or on the floor) and scream, giggle, cry and annoy for the entire duration of the film.

I, for one, have experienced this problem firsthand. As mentioned in my previous review for *Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets*, and I quote, "I did not have as much fun watching it as I did the first but maybe that was the two-year-old sitting behind me, jumping and bounce-



Leave this kid at home, grandma!

ing up and down, giggling and screaming the entire movie."

Okay, I do agree that it was my risk and not the parents because the film itself is targeted at kids, but it is targeted at young adults, not infants. Nevertheless, I took the greater gamble.

However, when I went to see *Changing Lanes*, a PG-13 movie about road rage with occasional swearing, sexual references and semi-violent images, a couple apparently thought that it would be an absolutely splendid and wonderful idea to bring their

eight-year-old son, eight-year-old daughter, five-year-old son and infant to use the multiplex as a form of a babysitter.

One problem: They sat in the theater and would not stay still or shut up. The two eight-year-olds kept getting up and down and switching seats with each other. To add more insult to injury (or, in my case, a suicidal, comatose-like state), the infant constantly cried on and off for the entire film. Finally, the five-year-old ran up and down the aisle, as well as crawled on the "extremely sanitized" theater floor.

With these two instances, it just goes to show that no one under the age of six should even be allowed into a theater at all—Barney or no Barney. Some theaters across the country, including Marcus theaters in Illinois, are adopting age restrictions. Marcus has a policy that no child under the age of six will be allowed admittance after 6 p.m.—no exceptions.

So, people—listen up! Bring the popcorn. Hell, even try sneaking in a can of pop. But leave the kids at home!

Check for movie reviews at Matt's Movies & TV at <http://jgcocities.com/mys914je/>

The epic explodes in new *Lord of the Rings* DVD

By Nathan Bauer

The fame of the epic *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* continues in the newly released, revamped extended edition DVD. One of the best qualities of this edition is that you will get footage not shown in the original DVD edition. This version has an additional 30 minutes added to the three-hour film.

Also you will get commentary from the director, actors, design team and production/post production team.

Discs three and four incorporate many hours of documentaries, including one about the process of filming a movie based on a book, one about the design of Middle Earth and a Weta Workshop visit, which details the production of the weapons, armor and creatures. Also included is an interac-

tive map of Middle Earth.

This 2001 film originally grossed \$860 million worldwide and won four Academy Awards. *The Fellowship of the Ring* and its two upcoming sequels are the first in movie history to be filmed at the exact same time. So after you check out this new DVD, go see the second installment in the series, *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, to be released Dec. 18.

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Libra—The hamster you neglected in 4th grade will return from the grave and seek vengeance.



Taurus—You will have a curse put on you from the snowman whose carrot you stole. Jerk.



Scorpio—Don't fret, things will be better, my little guitar string.



Gemini—You are totally awesome! Kowabunga, dude!



Sagittarius—You will ask yourself: libido or lima beans.



Cancer—You will go to the zoo and pet a walrus.



Capricorn—The truth, about Madonna, is in your sock.



Leo—A deranged Muppet will use your chimney to use your toilet.



Aquarius—You will come across a happy fisherman. Don't take the bait.



Virgo—Practice air guitar over break, stud. You rock, right?



Pisces—Naked mole rats aren't too tasty, are they?

Schoolhouse Rock

Rock music returns to its roots

**Fatty Marshmallow
'fluffs' the competition**

By Craig Miller

It seems as though the sound of rock music is once again beginning to change. Instead of over-testosteroned, pumped-up meathads screaming into a microphone, or hyped-up versions of Vanilla Ice trying to rap over a hard rock beat, it seems as though rock music is actually going back to its roots. At least that is what Fatty Marshmallow is trying to do.

Fatty Marshmallow consists of singer/guitarist Curtis Martin, 20; bassist Mark Andrews, 22; guitarist Ryan Reynolds, 22; and drummer Sam Duncan, 20. As a four-piece rock band straight out of Joliet, they are working hard to take back what was stolen from the true songwriter in the mid to late nineties. Instead of writing songs to take out their anger on their parents, Fatty Marshmallow directs their discontent with society as a whole, not just individuals. Songs like "Stupid People" and "Wasting Time" speak to everyone in the world, and could be the next anthem that the world will be singing instead of Queen's "We Are The Champions."

"Most of the songs we write deal with the fact that we are very differ-

ent from everyone else out there," said Martin. "We don't like to associate ourselves with other people because almost everyone else isn't on our level, and that's kind of how we come up with songs like 'Stupid People' and stuff. We're like four hermits singing songs about why we are like that."

The band, which formed in March 2002, has been slaving away at gigs all over the Chicago area, trying to bring their brand of 60s and 70s influenced rock music. Playing clubs in the area like Earthquakes and Dynasty have helped in the development of the band's strong two and three part harmonies in their songs, as well as honing in on their individual and unique musical styles.

The influences on the music that Fatty Marshmallow plays is about as varied as their individual personalities. Martin prefers to listen to Van Halen and Led Zeppelin, but says that a guilty pleasure of his is Neil Diamond. Andrews is a huge REO Speedwagon fan, but also listens to a lot of country. Reynolds is into more mellow stuff of the Beatles and Pink Floyd, while Duncan can be seen listening to more Norwegian Black Metal.

The next performance of Fatty Marshmallow will be Saturday, Dec. 28, with Assumed Illegal, Ryan's Hope and Witroy at the Matteson Lodge Mason Hall on 350 Midland Ave. in Joliet. The show is for all ages, and starts at 7 p.m.

Da Bulls need to start wheeling and dealing

By Adam Fox

With over two months into the National Basketball League season and the Chicago Bulls way under 500, the fans are beginning to wonder if the playoffs are in sight. By now they are probably mathematically eliminated, or at least should be, from the playoffs. Can the season be saved? Yes, but not with this current roster.

Right now, point guards Jay Williams and Jamal Crawford are bickering over who should be starting. Power forward Marcus Fizer is miserable because he is getting no playing time, due to rookie Lonny Baxter's emergence. Also, small forward Eddie Robinson was promised a chance at starting when he signed with the Bulls, and has never gotten one. The Bulls are certainly not one big happy family down at the United Center.

It is a fact that the Bulls have loads of talent, but with so much discontent they will never get the opportunity of getting into the playoffs.

So, that leaves us one option, start wheeling and dealing. There are two possible paths that General Manager Jerry Krause should go down. One is for Mike Dunleavy Jr. and the other is for Brian Grant.

Mike Dunleavy Jr.: If Williams would not have been there at the number two pick last year, Krause would have taken Dunleavy. Currently, with Golden State, Dunleavy is seeing no playing time and is not fitting in with head coach Eric Musselwhite's system.

So let's take him. We could send over Crawford since the Warriors have no real point guard. The Bulls could also send over this year's first-round draft pick, since it is certain that they will get a shot at one of the first three picks. In return, the Bulls would get Dunleavy, and to make it salary cap feasible, the Warriors could send over Danny Fortson, a great rebounder who the Warriors have been trying to dump ever since they signed him.

Brian Grant: The Bulls were one of the suitors for Grant when the Miami Heat traded him two years ago. There are a lot of desirable free agents that the Heat are drooling over, so let's take Grant off their hands. GM Krause would have a heart attack when he sees Grant's \$11 million salary, but it is worth it to have a mentor for center Eddie Curry and power forward Tyson

Chandler. We would send them Crawford, Fizer, Robinson and Center Dalibor Bagaric. Along with Grant, the Heat could also throw in a future first-round selection.

The trade for Grant is more feasible for both teams. It would make the Heat major players in the free agent market next year and it would give them a quality point guard in Crawford. And Grant could act as a mentor/teacher for Curry and Chandler, something Charles Oakley never was.

The bottom line is that we want a winning team back in Chicago, so pull the trigger and dump these cancers. Yes, the current Bulls team is extremely talented, but with all the grumbling they will never win or mature. So Krause, do us all a favor for once.

JJC TOP 5 ATHLETIC MOMENTS OF THE ISSUE

5. LADY WOLVES' BASKETBALL IMPROVES ON LAST YEAR'S RECORD FROM 2-28 TO 4-5.

4. MEN'S BASKETBALL RANKED NUMBER 7 IN THE NJCAA.

3. BASKETBALL COACH, JOE KUHN WINS 100TH GAME.

2. MEN'S BASKETBALL WINS JJC THANKSGIVING TOURNAMENT.

1. WOLVES' FOOTBALL TEAM BRINGS HOME NATIONAL TITLE.

Photos of the Issue



Raw sewage loves the Blacker office!



The ice on the lake makes an intriguing picture.

Photos by Adam Fox

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Men's basketball on a roll with winning streak

Wolves on fire with eight-game sweep

By David Ashby

The men's basketball team has secured an eight-game winning streak that started at the JJC McDonald's Classic on Nov. 15 and Nov. 16, where they beat St. Xavier JV and Olivet Nazarene JV. With their overall record currently standing at 10-1, the Wolves have charged forward and are not looking back.

The Wolves have set a model of blowing out opponents that is slowly developing into their standard of play. For example, during their two most recent games against Oakton Community College and McHenry County College, they won by a margin of over 20 points.

Despite a slow first half at the Oakton game on Oct. 3 in Joliet, the Wolves charged forward in the second half, beating the Raiders 102-71. During the game against McHenry in Crystal Lake, the Wolves proved again that they have what champions are made of, beating the Fighting Scots 106-42.

However, the Wolves have also played games that have gone right down to the wire. One such game was for the championship against the College of Lake County at the JJC/UPS Thanksgiving Classic on Nov. 30, where the Wolves eventually triumphed 99-90.

Though JJC jumped to a 10-0 lead in the first half, the Lakers put all their effort to fight back.

By the end of the first half, JJC only led by a score of 44-36. Though the Lakers tied the game 48-48 in the second half, they could not keep up with the Wolves' 11-0 run later on in

the game.

"It was good to be in such a tight game where we had to make some plays down the stretch because ultimately you're going to work a couple playfully games that are probably going to be pretty tight," said Head Coach Joe Kuhn. "So it was good not to have an easy one."

The Wolves had won their first game in the tournament against North Park University JV the day before, with a remarkable score of 114-75.

Other victims of the Wolves' basketball blitzkrieg include Robert Morris College JV on Nov. 23, 99-72, and Elgin Community College on Nov. 19, 97-27.

The Wolves certainly have a team of all-stars this year that are willing to work together as a team to excel on the basketball court.

"We have a very unselfish team this year," said Kuhn. "Most [of the players] have been very giving of themselves."

Two players in particular that have really shined during the early part of the basketball season are Chris Wesley and Gordon Morgan.

Wesley, a 6-foot-7-inch freshman forward, was named the Region IV Division III "Player of the Week" on Nov. 14. In first three games of the season alone, he scored 30 points and grabbed 39 rebounds.

Morgan, a 5-foot-8-inch sophomore guard, was named as a NJCAA Preseason All-American. A prodigy



Move over Dunkin' Donuts! It's the Dunkin' Wolves!

Photo by Adam Marcus

from Kokomo High School in Indiana, he scored 24 points, eight rebounds, two assists and two steals in the season's first game against Morton College, in which the Wolves won 73-70.

Other noticeable players include tough defensive player David Gullet, high scoring Eddie Small and Troy Shanks, who was the JJC/UPS Thanksgiving Classic's Most Valuable Player. However, the whole team has been playing well.

The Wolves look to move their winning streak up to nine of Saturday, Oct. 14, against Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor, Mich.

Lady Wolves struggle to stay ahead

Women's team hopes to improve record

By Megan Gilman

Lady Wolves basketball is working hard to stay afloat as their record goes to 4-5. After their loss to Wright College, things began to look up for the team. They ended a four-game losing streak in the JJC/UPS Thanksgiving Classic on Nov. 30, where they won against Morton College, 74-40.

Everyone who played in the game scored. Kelly Pero scored 16 points and Candace Robinson record her fourth consecutive double-double. She also scored 11 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Annemarie Oell'Aquila recorded 14 points and had six rebounds against Morton College. Jody Byers also had a great game. She added 11 points, nine rebounds, and dished out four assists.

"This win was a total team effort," said Head Coach Tony Giese.

The Lady Wolves then earned past Oakton Community College, 58-35, on Dec. 3, proving that the momentum was in their favor. Robinson recorded her fifth consecutive double-double by scoring 13 points and grab-

bing 20 rebounds against the Raiders. Pero scored 13 points, had seven assists and seven rebounds. Chris Calligaris scored 10 points, had seven assists and four steals. She averages five points a game and four assists per game. With the win the Lady Wolves were back to 500.

"This is a big step forward for our program and things are looking up for us right now," said Giese.

The team was hoping to continue their winning streak against McHenry County College on Oct. 5, but their problems on the road continued instead.

They fell to McHenry 70-38, bringing their record on the road to 1-3 this season. Pero scored a team high of 15 points. She also grabbed seven rebounds. She now leads the team in scoring.

Tatiana Evans and Robinson also played well. Evans scored 10 points. With 10 rebounds, Robinson recorded her sixth consecutive double-double.



ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE



Kelly Pero

Kelly Pero, Joliet Junior College lady's basketball point guard has really showed fantastic leadership qualities this year, and she is only a freshman. The 5'6 point guard from Hobart, Ind. is averaging 16 points a game. In high school, she was a two sport prep athlete that managed to keep her GPA above a 3.0. She was also named to the All-Tournament Team, All-Area Honorable Mention Team and won a gold medal in Sydney, Australia in the Indiana Stars in the O'wen Under Hoops Classic in high school. Pero has been called one of the best point guards in the league by lady's basketball coach, Tony Giese. "She plays the game with passion and enthusiasm and has helped our team in many ways."



Candace Robinson

Candace Robinson, a 5'11 forward from Blackhawk East Community College, has really been showing her attributes on offense and defense this year. Originally from Joliet and a graduate of Joliet Township High School, she has had six consecutive games where she has grabbed double-digit rebounds. She has also had five consecutive double-doubles. Her defensive ability has helped the Lady Wolves improve on last year's record. She is currently averaging ten points and ten rebounds per game. Her season high rebounds are 20 against Oakton Community College.

"She has been playing really well for us as of late, and her athleticism is really starting to show," commented Head Coach Tony Giese.

By Megan Gilman

JJC cheerleading seeks recognition

New coach looks to give squad more exposure

By Megan Gilman

Joliet Junior College's cheerleading squad has faced its share of hardships over the years. The team was in serious trouble last year when Pam Ethridge, who coached the team for 15 years, left for a new job. She was a part-time teacher at JJC and left for a full-time position at Prairie State College. Ethridge tried to continue coaching but it became too hard and cheerleading stopped for a year, until Ed Sutter took up coaching the team this past fall season.

Sutter, a speech instructor, has taught at JJC for 28 and half years. He decided to coach the team after his daughter refused to go to a school that did not offer cheerleading as an activity.

"Emily is an award-winning cheerleader and she wanted to continue cheering, and I wanted her to join JJC because it was free," said Sutter. So to commemorate Ed started up the team again and Emily went to JJC. "I really didn't realize how much athletic ability these girls had to have until only three girls were able to make it to practice and I had to spot," he said.

There were six girls on the football squad this year. Jennifer Brooks, Kristin Hulva, Melissa Jay, Heidi Rodriguez, Emily Sutter and Brandi Tarkley cheered the team on to Go-



The JJC cheerleaders dazzle the audience at a basketball game.

Photo by Adam Marcus

go on Dec. 7 at the Golden Isles Bowl Classic. They held tryouts for basketball cheerleaders a few days before the season started. Ten girls made the team: Katie Bleicki, Hope Brown, Michelle Carr, Jessica Carter, Jennifer Lauren, Lauren Hylia, Christine McDonnell, Heidi Rodriguez, Emily Sutter, and Brandi Tarkley. Two girls tumble, Emily Sutter and Katie Bleicki, while three girls are able to

fly, Katie Bleicki, Emily Sutter, and Heidi Rodriguez.

The girls do not compete against other squads in the NJCAA conference because the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) does not recognize cheerleading as a sport. Because of this setback, they are having trouble getting funding. JJC is having a difficult time placing them as a division because they cannot be considered as a club either.

If they were a club they would have to take everyone that wanted to tryout, and being that cheerleading takes a lot of experience, it is just not feasible. The girls are badly in need of new uniforms. The ones they have now are over 15 years old. The girls would also like to perform and maybe host a competition in the future. The team was recently turned down for a beverage grant because members of the grant committee felt that they were part of the athletic department, which would have made them ineligible.

Despite their problems the girls still practice their full extensives and lifts from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the gym on Sundays.